Mac FORMAT

All your Apple needs

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>Issue 228 December 2010

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Subscribe to *MacFormat* to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get a £30 gift card to spend on the Wrappz.com store! **Turn to page 68 now!**

Fresh on the heels of revealing the best financial results in its history, Apple this month gave us a new version of *iLife '11*, a sneak peek at the next version of OS X 10.7 Lion, a Mac App Store (coming around Christmas time), *FaceTime for Mac* and two new MacBook Airs with flash memory instead of traditional hard drives. Phew! It's hard to keep up!

With so much going on with the Mac and the iOS devices right now, it's becoming a real stretch to fit it all into *MacFormat*. So, just like Apple, we're expanding. Without further ado, let me introduce you to our new sister title, *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine*. With the latest app and game reviews, tutorials and the best hardware accessories, *Tap!* is the perfect companion for your iPad, iPod touch or iPhone! Find out more on page 10 and at **www.tapmag.co.uk**.

Of course, we won't ignore the iPad and iPhone in *MacFormat* completely, but *Tap!* will become your first port of call for everything iOS-related, while *MacFormat* will have more room to dedicate to the wonder of the Mac and OS X. And on that note, be sure to catch our next issue –on sale 8 December – which will contain your essential guide to the new features of Apple's *iLife '11*. You won't want to miss it!

Graham Barlow, Editor-in-Chief
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twitter.com/MacFormat

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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

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Staff writer

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Technical wizard

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Software guru

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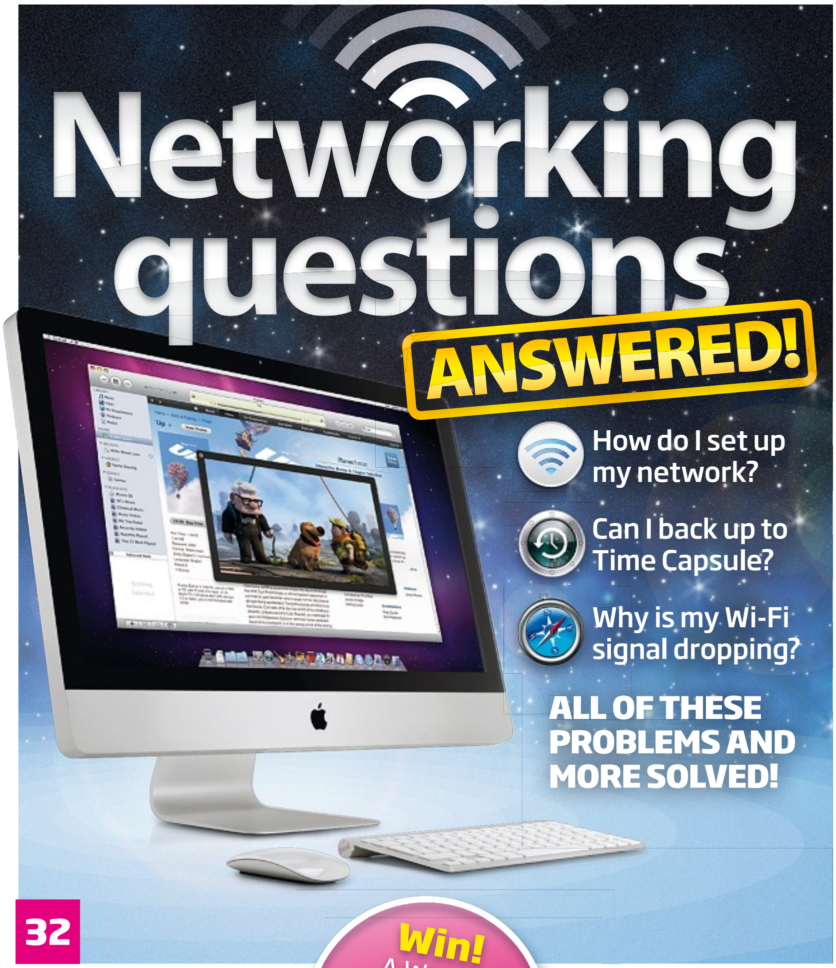

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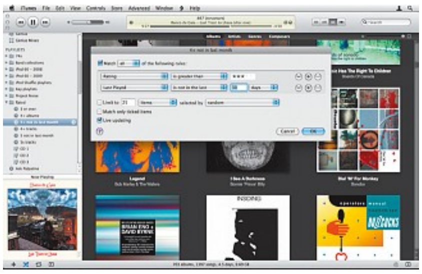

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Record your screen output

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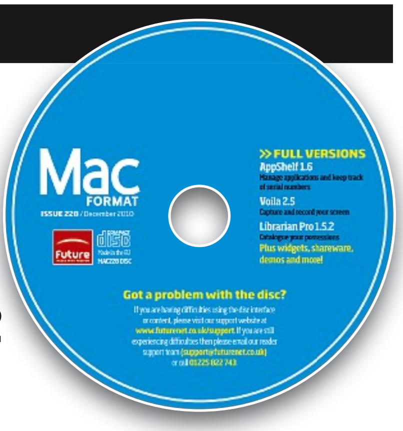
Catalogue your possessions



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ISSUE 228 / December 2010
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Voila 2.5
Librarian Pro 1.5.2
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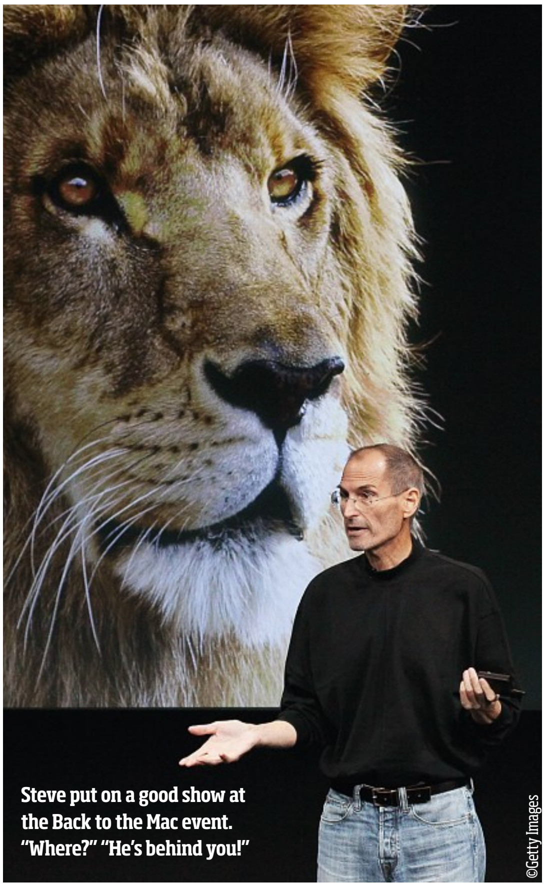
Like *MacFormat?* Then you'll love our *MacFormat Presents...* series of special issues. **Turn to page 101 to find out more!**

iPad The Essential Handbook
Mac presents The Essential iPhone 4 Handbook

Start up

OS X 10.7 Lion finally unveiled

The Mac's future OS is called Lion and is "inspired" by iOS, says Steve Jobs



Steve put on a good show at the Back to the Mac event. "Where?" "He's behind you!"

©Getty Images

Apple gave us our first glimpse of the eighth version of Mac OS X, OS X 10.7 'Lion' and also introduced its new App Store for Mac application, during a late October special event at its headquarters in California.

Apple also unveiled new MacBook Air configurations (page 8), *iLife '11* (page 9) and introduced *FaceTime for the Mac*, a beta app that lets Macs connect with iPhone and iPod touch users.

"We started with Mac OS X, and created iOS from it. We created some new things there, and moved it to the iPad. Now we want to bring some of that back to the Mac. Lion equals Mac OS X plus iPad," explained CEO, Steve Jobs.

>>MORE NEWS

For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone, visit **www.macformat.co.uk**

The big new features for the OS include integration of concepts from Apple's iOS – but don't expect a touchscreen iMac. Jobs explained that a touch interface doesn't work well on a notebook screen. This means trackpads and the Magic Mouse are the interfaces for future iOS/OS X integration.

"Lion brings many of the best ideas from iPad back to the Mac, plus some fresh new ones like Mission Control that Mac users will really like," said Jobs. "Lion has a ton of new features," he promised.

App Store for Mac

There's no need to wait for Lion to get your hands on the App Store for Mac - it goes live "in 90 days", which means around Christmas time. This offers a similar experience to the App Store on iOS devices: visit the store, choose and purchase an app, download it and its ready.

The Mac App Store will look similar to the App Store on the iPad, featuring app descriptions, screenshots, and user reviews. Apple is offering to host applications on the store for 30% of the cost of the software, meaning developers keep 70% of revenue. Purchasers may use these apps on all their personal Macs. As with iOS Apps, Mac app updates are delivered directly through the Mac App Store, so it's easy to keep your apps up to date.

The Launchpad

Lion also offers an iOS-like Launchpad, a flick-through screen showing icons for each

Dashboard
Desktop
iPhoto
Preview
Mail
Safari
iCal
App Store
MacBook Air

The Mission Control screen in OS X 10.7 Lion puts you in the hot seat.

of your apps, making your Mac Desktop look like the standard iOS desktop. Click the Launchpad icon in your Dock and the windows you have open on your Mac Desktop disappear, to be replaced by a full-screen display of all the apps on your Mac. You can organise the app icons using drag-and-drop, with the help iPad-style pages of apps. You can also arrange them into any order, including gathering application icons into folders of similar apps – games, or office tools, for example – just like you can on the iPad home screen.

Full-screen apps

Apple looked to the iPad here to figure out that we like to use apps in full-screen mode: now, on OS X, we can. Mac OS X Lion will enable you to bring an app to full-screen with just one click. Better, you'll be able to swipe the trackpad to move to the next full-screen app or to return to the conventional desktop to access your other apps. Support for this feature will be system-wide, Apple promised. PDFs opened in *Preview* in particular look great in full-screen mode.

Mission Control

Lion's new Mission Control feature will let you easily explore all the windows, widgets and apps running on your Mac, by flicking through these like you would on an iPad. You'll see all your open windows in an *Exposé* style and grouped by application, with *Dashboard* items and *Spaces* all put together within one unified window – this should make it easier than ever to navigate between applications, tasks and projects on your Mac.

Windows opened in the same app are shown grouped together as a cluster, which can be flicked open so that you can find the window you want. A simple trackpad swipe gives you access to Mission Control. One click takes you to any running app.

More, more, more

Apple briefly noted some additional OS improvements: autosave at a system level will mean you never lose anything you're working on ever again. Applications in future will also automatically open in the same state in which they quit (auto-resume).

Saying he "wished we had another hour and a half to show you more," Jobs promised that Apple will continue to share more features of the new operating system as we approach its release in summer 2011.

The introduction of the future Mac OS took place just days after Apple announced its first $20 billion quarter, with 3.89 Mac sales, 14.1 million iPhones, 9.05 million iPod and 4.19 million iPad sales. The company is firing on all cylinders, and recently won a staggering 10% of the US-wide PC market share – a statistical milestone that underlines how Apple's fortunes have transformed since 2000. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

100

Steve Jobs' max development team head count for products

"Hands-on with the MacBook Air, you get a feel for its trimmed proportions"

We get to grips with Apple's new thin notebook. >>

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

>Steve Jobs

www.apple.com

"We think the open-versus-closed argument is just a smokescreen to try and hide the real issue, which is, what's best for the customer, fragmented versus integrated?"

Apple goes for Google on Android vs iPhone

>John Sculley

www.cultofmac.com

"There are many product development and marketing lessons I learned working with Steve in the early days. I don't see any change in Steve's first principles - except he's gotten better and better at it."

Apple's ex-CEO waxes lyrical on Steve Jobs

>Paul Otellini

www.intel.com

"Tablets are exciting and we fully welcome their arrival. Apple has done a wonderful job of reinventing the [tablet] category."

Intel boss praises Apple but promises competition

>Gene Munster

www.piperjaffray.com

"We think Apple won't have the majority of the [tablet] market share. It'll probably be with Android-based tablets."

Apple analyst sees an Android future in the tablet market.

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

Apple's new-look pair of MacBook Airs on show at the recent Back to the Mac event.

Hands-on with the 11-inch MacBook Air

We walked out of Apple's 'Back to the Mac' event with a shiny new 11-inch 1.4GHz Core 2 Duo MacBook Air. What's it like? We're so glad you asked…

ABOVE: The size difference compared between the new MacBook Air notebooks.

ABOVE RIGHT: Hands-on with the smallest Air, you get a feel for its trimmed proportions.

RIGHT: Back-to-back, the two flavours of the Air stand proud.

For starters, it's hot. As in gorgeous. Measuring 11.8-inches wide, 7.56-inches deep, and merely 0.68-inches high at its thickest point, it tapers down to a practically-invisible 0.11-inches at the thinnest point, down near the thumb scoop. The screen measures 11.6-inches diagonally, but it's a true 16:9 widescreen, a little shorter than the iPad's 4:3, 9.7-inch diagonal screen when the iPad is in landscape mode. The iPad weighs 1.5 pounds (Wi-Fi only; the Wi-Fi + 3G model is 1.6 pounds), and this 11.6-inch Air is a tad heavier, at 2.3 pounds.

The full-size keyboard is a pleasure to type on, although we already miss the backlit keys of the previous generation Air. Apple positioned the internal stereo speakers directly underneath the new Air's keyboard, with no visible grill or perforation. An Apple rep explained that the sound comes up from below the keyboard through the tiny bits of space around each key. We blasted some music through *iTunes* and it sounded a little on the tinny side, but still better than the last MacBook Air.

The glass Multi-Touch trackpad is a little shorter than on the larger MacBooks – it's 4.1-inches across by 2.5-inches high, for about 4.7 diagonal inches total. But it's a breeze to use, with all the multiple-finger Multi-Touch gestures working like a dream.

>> EDITOR'S OPINION

Is Apple's new, smaller MacBook Air a netbook?

Graham Barlow

Steve Jobs once famously called netbooks "just cheap laptops", dismissing them as slow, with "low-quality displays" and running PC software. The problem is that, judging by sales figures, it's what a lot of people want, or it's what people settle for. Jobs' previous solution was that people get an iPad, but now Apple has planted its flag firmly in the small-size mobile computer category with the 11-inch MacBook air.

So, is the 11-inch MacBook Air a netbook? I'd say no. There's nothing low-end about it, including its price. It has a fast (enough) processor, super-fast flash memory storage and a fantastic screen. It's basically a small MacBook, and Apple have priced it accordingly at the same price as its full-sized MacBook (£849). And this is exactly what I'd expect from a company like Apple that refuses to sacrifice on quality. ●

The LED-backlit display is plenty bright, a high-res 1366x768 pixels natively, and visible from a wide angle. Apple put the MagSafe port, one USB 2.0 port, the audio in/out (Apple's Earphones with Remote and Mic are supported) and the integrated mic on the left side of the Air; the Mini DisplayPort and a second USB 2.0 port go on the right side. Our 11.6-inch Air doesn't have the SD card slot that's on the 13.3-inch Air, but other than that the ports are the same. We were able to connect the Air to our new 27-inch Cinema Display, where it ran great in closed-lid mode at a maximum resolution of 2560x1440. But in mirrored-display mode, the 27-inch screen could only show 1366x768 pixels, which made things look big and blurry. So stick to extended or closed-lid mode for the best result.

There's no optical drive, so Apple includes a tiny USB stick with your software on it in case you need to reinstall any included applications or the Mac OS itself. (Yes, this runs the full Mac OS, not some watered-down version or iOS hybrid!) You can also borrow the optical drive of another nearby Mac – just insert your disc, then launch a *Finder* window on the Air and select Remote Disc from the sidebar. There's no Ethernet port, just 802.11n Wi-Fi, but Apple sells a USB Ethernet Adapter for £25.

The classic hard drive is gone too. Apple has instead opted for flash memory sticks, but to save space and weight, the company didn't use a traditional solid-state drive, which is made up of flash memory but in a typical hard drive housing. Instead, the flash chips are right on the logic board, saving space in the enclosure for bigger batteries. Apple claims this 11.6-inch Air offers five hours of work time and 30 days of standby time. We can't wait to test that spec out, but so far so good...

The flash memory also provides an incredibly speedy experience. The Air comes to life virtually instantly when you press the power button or open the case. And even with its 2GB of RAM and 1.4GHz Core 2 Duo, this Air launches all of Apple's packed-in applications in, well, in a flash. We did a side-by-side app-launching test to compare launch times for *Mail, Safari, iChat, Address Book, iCal, iTunes, Preview*, and the *iLife '11* apps on the Air, with a 2.66GHz Core i7 MacBook Pro with 4GB of RAM. With that kind of processor speed and double the memory, you'd think the Pro would beat the Air, but thanks to the flash memory, the Air's applications launched almost instantly, while the Pro's apps – stored on a regular platter disk – took longer to launch.

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

$51 billion

The total of Apple's corporate bank account reserve

We'll have a full review of the Air in the next issue, but even after having it for just a few hours, we can say with confidence that it's more compelling than the original (and more expensive) MacBook Air released in 2008, and quite a fun little machine to use. ●

iPhoto '11 sports a brand-new 3D interface for creating photo books in the new iLife '11.

>> MAJOR UPDATE

iLife '11 is here!

Apple updates iLife's three core apps, but iWeb and iDVD are unchanged

The updates to the *iLife '11* suite all focus on *iPhoto*, *iMovie* and *GarageBand*, leaving *iWeb* and *iDVD* untouched. One of the big new features of *iPhoto* is fullscreen mode, which now appears almost everywhere, rather than just in Edit mode. You now have a fullscreen Events view, Faces view and Places view. There have been lots of online improvements, with the ability to email photos and view comments about them on Facebook, all from within the app. There's also a range of new slideshows and a new 3D interface that makes creating photo books and calendars better than ever. The ability to order Letterpress cards (embossed cards) has also been added.

iMovie sees some improvements to audio editing, finally giving you access to a waveform, so you can set levels throughout a piece of video. One-step effects have also been added, which make it easy to add things like a slow-motion replay, or a still frame to a piece of video. A new People Finder feature intelligently works out which parts of your footage include people, and a new Movie Trailers feature gives clips the full Hollywood trailer treatment!

Finally, *GarageBand* has two great enhancements: Flex Time, which gives you the power to extend or shorten notes; and Groove Matching, which fixes tempo, so you never have to worry about going out of time again. There are also more guitar effects and music lessons, plus a new "How Did I Play?" feature that rates your learning. ●

NEXT ISSUE! Don't miss our complete guide to the new iLife '11 – it's the only guide you'll need! On sale 8 December.

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dawn of a new era

Christopher Phin

The day after the original iPhone launched in 2007, I was ushered into a small room and handed one to try, and almost four years later I still haven't lost my sense of wonder and excitement about what it can do and what it represents – a future for computing where everything just works, beautifully.

At the time, few would have had the chutzpah to suggest that the iPhone would shortly define the mobile computing market. (And let's not be coy about this – look at any high-end mobile phone these days and it's quite clearly the child of the iPhone. And though the iPad is yet to attract a swathe of competitors, only a fool would suggest that the iPad isn't the one to beat.)

The iPhone's ascendency was just what happened. I still do a double-take when I see an advert on TV that says just to buy a particular product 'on the App Store'. We all know what it means. And for me – whose first Mac was an Amelio-era Power Macintosh 4400 – seeing Apple enjoying such unalloyed ubiquity is as unsettling as it is welcome.

> *"I still do a double-take when I see an advert on TV that says just to buy a particular product 'on the App Store'"*

Given that it was a year before Apple even allowed an app to be developed for the iPhone, fewer still would have then predicted that I would today be welcoming you to a new sister magazine to *MacFormat*, all about the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

There's a proper news story about it just to the right, but as its editor* I wanted to tell you just a little about why we decided to call it *Tap!* This, you see, is Apple's second time round at defining the prevailing personal computing paradigm. In 1984, the Macintosh was introduced with something new and weird: the mouse. Where before we had interacted with computers via keyboards and strings of text, from then on we 'clicked' on things.

And since the iPhone, we've tapped. Mark my words: it's the action that will define personal computing for at least the next decade. So look out for *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine*. ●

***Christopher Phin will still be our deputy right here on *MacFormat*, proving we can't get rid of him that easily!**

>> RISE AND RISE OF APPLE

Macs officially hit the big time

Apple cracks 10% of US PC market share

Apple has achieved the unthinkable, cracking 10.4% market share in the US, according to the latest figures from Gartner. These figures are remarkable when compared to just a decade ago, when Apple held around 2.7% share.

Gartner claims Apple sold 1.83 million PCs in its third calendar quarter, placing it in fourth place just behind Acer, which sold 1.84 million PCs. Apple held 9.3% of the market, with 1.6 million PCs in the same quarter one year ago.

Apple's Mac sales climbed by 1,338,000 units in the third quarter of 2007, up 37.2% from the previous year. This increase of more than eight times the industry growth rate, according to Gartner, seems to validate Apple's decision to focus on notebooks and the education market.

The analyst firm admitted PC sales grew 7.6% in the quarter, well below Gartner's original expectation of 12.7% growth. They noted that netbook sales had declined as consumers moved to the iPad (which the analysts didn't include within these highly impressive PC sales figures).

Mikako Kitagawa, principal analyst at Gartner, said, "Media tablet hype around devices such as the iPad has also affected consumer notebook growth by delaying some PC purchases, especially in the US consumer market. Media tablets don't replace primary PCs, but they affect PC purchases in many ways." ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

45 million

Component suppliers' expected iPad sales in 2011

>> NEW MAGAZINE

Tap! mag launches

From the experts at your MacFormat

Attention! Look out for *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine*, which we'll be offering in print, digital and online versions, as well as a beautiful, intuitive iPhone app.

Inside, we'll be offering you world-class advice on the best apps, games and accessories available for your Apple mobile gadgets. We're also going to offer a database of app and game reviews at www.tapmag.co.uk. Edited by *MacFormat*'s own Christopher Phin, *Tap!* ships every other month and costs just £5. The first issue of *Tap!* will go on sale on 25 November 2010. Don't miss it! ●

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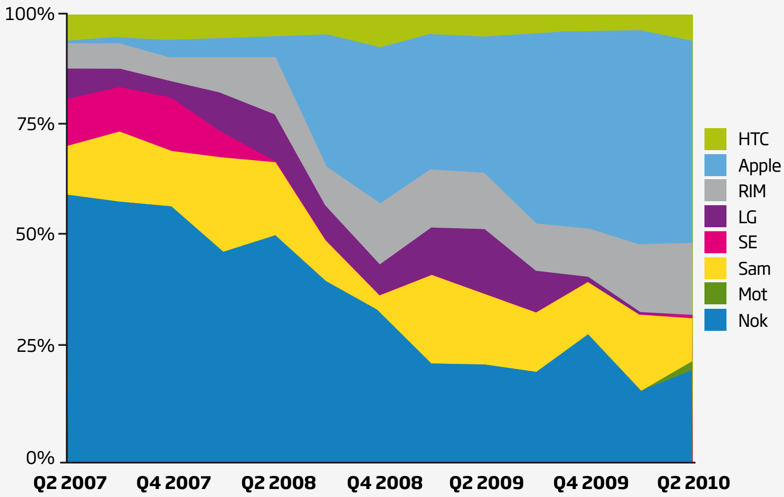
APPLE IN NUMBERS / Plenty of profit



Say what you like about smartphone market share – Apple's iPhone is a profit-creating monster for the company. Just look at Asymco's Horace Dediu's analysis of the huge chunk of mobile phone profits Apple's iPhone accounts for in comparison with everyone else in the business.

MOBILE SYNCING

Microsoft goes Mac with phones

Windows 7 smartphones to sync with Macs

Microsoft has confirmed it is developing sync tools to let Mac users use new Windows Phone 7 devices. The software giant introduced Windows Phone 7 at an event in October. The software has been well-received by the tech press, with some remarking the Redmond-based company has created a mobile system that could challenge Apple's iOS and Google's Android smartphone systems.

Oded Ran, a Microsoft executive in charge of Windows Phone marketing in the UK, revealed the Mac support plan in a tweet, in which he also promised more details would be released at a later date. Microsoft later confirmed Ran's claim, telling Engadget, "Later in 2010, Microsoft will make a public beta available of a tool that allows Windows Phone 7 to sync select content with Mac computers."

The move to offer Mac support is also interesting because Microsoft has not offered Zune software support for Macs at any point. Phones running Microsoft's new OS use a Zune software solution for sync and playback of music and other media. What isn't clear from Microsoft's response is whether Zune software support is planned in the future Windows Phone 7 sync software.

The new breed of Microsoft phones seem to borrow much from the iPhone: its multi-touch features don't need a stylus, first-generation devices lack copy-and-paste and there's no Flash support or multi-tasking. Devices running the software will be available from multiple manufacturers. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

$300

Apple crossed $300 per share on 13 October

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: iWork '11 ships January
Amazon continues to let slip the release of books about Apple's currently unreleased iWork '11 solutions; the smart money backs January for a release.

HOT: Apple blocking Spotify US
Popular across Europe, Spotify's US launch has been delayed. Now it seems Apple's iTunes execs are warning music labels that Spotify may damage music sales.

NOT: Tim Cook jumps ship
Apple has dismissed false reports that claimed Apple COO Tim Cook intended leaving the firm to become CEO of HP. No need to worry – someone else got the job.

NOT: Microsoft buys Adobe
Microsoft and Adobe have been meeting to discuss plans to take on the iPhone, but claims of a merger between the two firms seems unlikely to us due to anti-trust laws.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Fans of cult US TV series *Big Bang Theory* look forward to a cameo appearance by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, who appears as himself in episode two of series four of the show, which should reach the UK soon.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

King of the OS jungle

Susie Ochs

We've just returned from Apple's 'Back to the Mac' event, and I'm thrilled Apple is returning its focus to the Macintosh after an iOS-focused year. And while it looks like OS X 10.7 Lion is going to take a lot of inspiration from iOS, one thing I keep hearing is that Apple should integrate iOS and OS X, so your Mac can run apps from the App Store.

Sound cool? Not to me. iPhone apps are made for a touchscreen, so running them on a regular old Mac would be like washing your hair wearing mittens – an extra layer that just gets in the way. You may have not tried the Mac-based debugger utility for iOS apps (it's just for developers), but believe me, clicking around iOS apps with a mouse is not exactly satisfying. Plus, as we saw when 'double-sizing' iPhone apps to run on an iPad's screen, the interface counts too. Keeping iPhone apps the same size would be irritating on a desktop screen and a terrible waste of space, but blowing them up would make them look and feel like they were made for toddlers.

> *"One thing I keep hearing is that Apple should integrate iOS and OS X, so your Mac can run apps from the App Store"*

So we should keep the touchscreen apps and iOS on the touchscreen devices.

Okay, then, how about a touchscreen Mac? Steve Jobs effectively squashed that rumor dead when he said it looks great in demos, but over prolonged use your arm "feels like it wants to fall off". I have to agree. Having used the Wacom Cintiq, a lovely touchscreen display/graphics tablet combo that employs a stylus, I'm still not ready for the awkwardness of reaching out and tapping my Mac's glossy, gorgeous screen with my grubby fingers. My iPad and iPhone are covered with greasy fingerprints already, but since those are made to be hand-held I can live with it – plus wipe-downs are quick. If I had to polish my 21-inch iMac every couple of hours to keep it from looking like a greasy piece of modern art, the gee-whizziness of a touchscreen would quickly lose its lustre.

So let's let an iPad be an iPad and a Mac be a Mac. At least for now. ●

Susie Ochs, Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*, currently wonders how a MacBook Air would fare on the dusty playas of Burning Man.

>> DATA CENTRE

Murmurs of iTunes cloud coming 2011

Apple pays $1.7 million for an acre of land

Apple has serious plans for its new data centre in North Carolina, with news the company has paid over $1.7 million dollars for one small acre of land adjacent to the location.

The one acre of land held a small house owned by the Fulbright family. Apple had made previous offers for the place, but the Fulbrights refused to sell.

In desperation, "They told us to put a price on it and we did," Kathy Fulbright says. The Fulbrights initially paid just $6,000 for the land over 34 years ago. Now they live in a 49-acre property with a 4,200-square foot house and a jacuzzi in the master bathroom, all purchased with the profits of the Apple land acquisition.

That Apple felt justified in paying so much for one acre of land underlines just how strategically important its North Carolina data centre is to the company's future. The centre is expected to be the powerhouse behind future TV and music services, iTunes subscription services, and potentially wider moves into cloud-based application provision. All potential moves would require a data centre.

Gartner analyst David Cappuccio told Bloomberg: "Between iTunes and the video store they are going to have, you're talking about massive amounts of data and millions of people trying to access that at the same time."

Construction of Apple's technology hub is expected to complete before the end of 2010. This hints that Apple will begin introducing services associated with the centre starting in 2011 – perhaps in parallel with the release of OS X Lion. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

2x

Enterprise users favour iPhone over Android twice over

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

Apple has broken through the $300 share level. Since September, the stock price has been going upwards from $240, with only a single hiccup recorded.

It's the kind of chart that says the market knows something. What is it? With Apple worth nearly $300 billion, it would have to be something amazing, especially as – from a technical analysis point of view – its price looks headed for $330 a share.

At the current level, Apple is worth 3% of the whole S&P 500. At $333 a share, Apple will be the biggest company in the US. At this level, every dollar rise is worth roughly $1 billion in value, and $10-worth of Apple stock price could buy outright Hershey or Sara Lee, Mattel or Dr Pepper. For $30, you can buy eBay or Halliburton, Nike or Monsanto. Amazing.

How humbling it is that Apple is worth two Googles, or an Intel and a Coca Cola, or a Goldman Sachs and an Amazon – and a Hewlett Packard!

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

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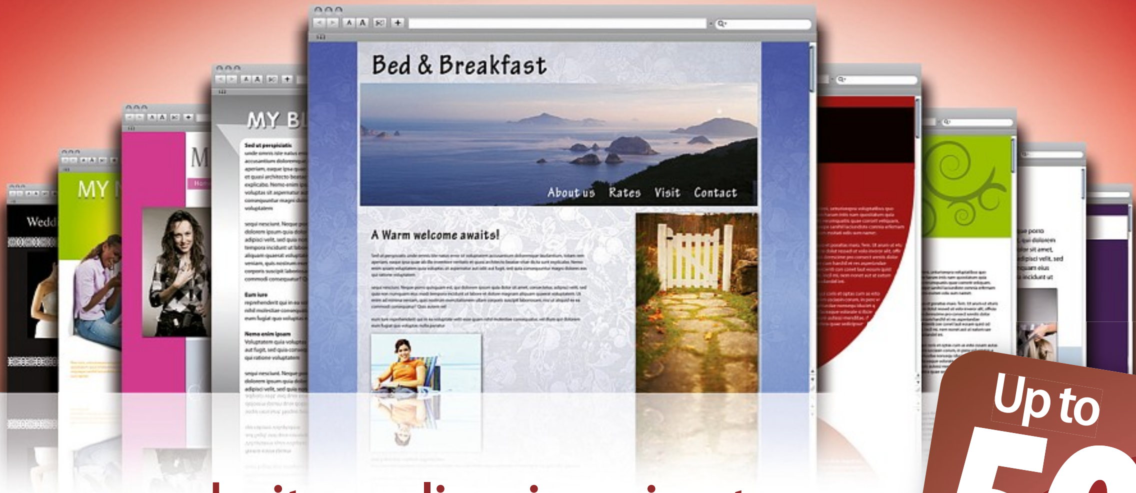

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Wacom makes some of the best graphics tablets around, and its Intuos4 range greatly impressed when it was released last year. Now the German giant is back with a new version, and this time it's cable-free.

The Wacom Intuos4 Wireless offers the same range of features as its USB stablemate. Its ambidextrous design means it can be used right-handed or left-handed, its new Tip Sensor has an incredible 2,048 levels of pressure sensitivity and its Touch Ring controller can be configured to let you scroll through a document, change brush sizes and more. There's eight customisable ExpressKeys too, with embedded OLEDs to indicate their current function. Best of all, it connects via Bluetooth and is rechargeable for lead- and battery-free convenience. And we've got three to give away!

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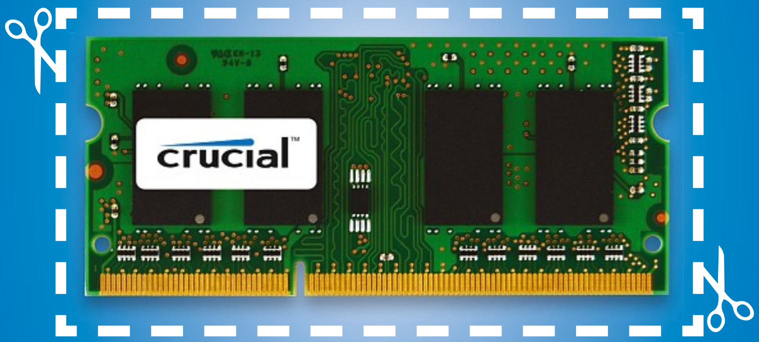
Photography: Joe Branston



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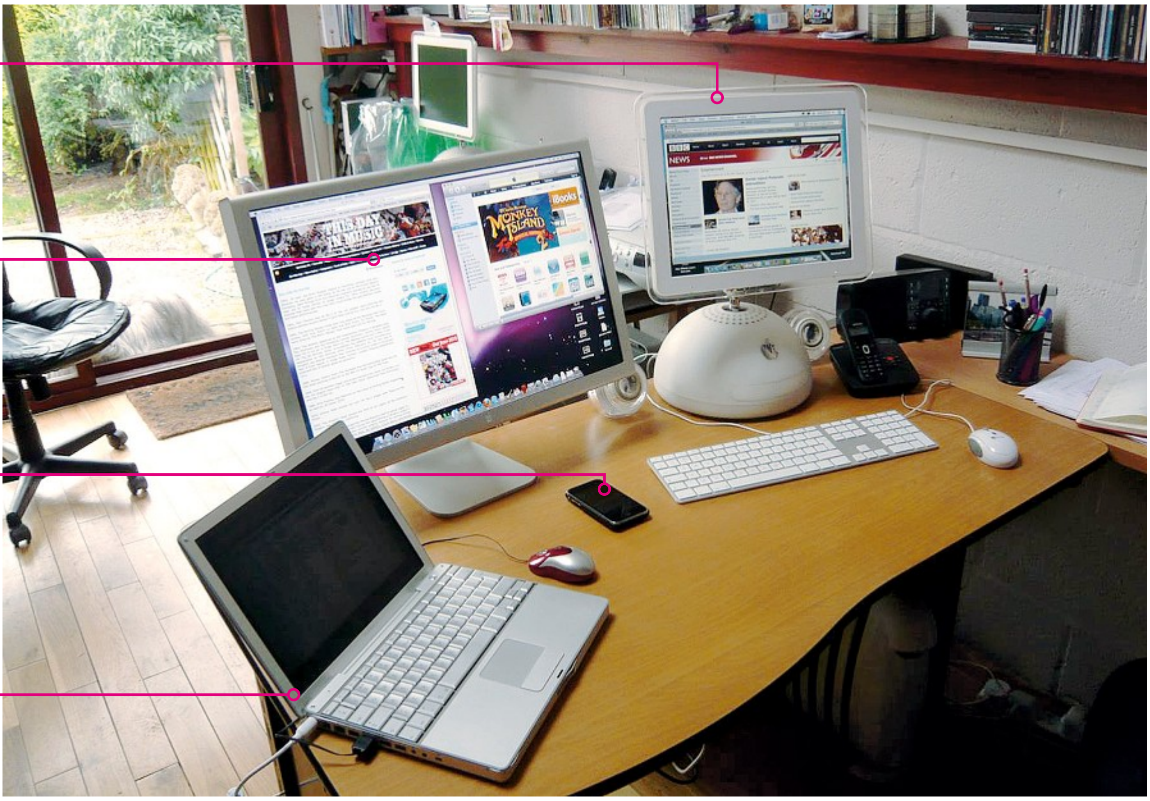
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>> CONTACT US
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **laurence.cable@futurenet.com**



iMac G4 700MHz
As well as having a striking design, the anglepoise iMac was the first to have a G4 processor and a flatscreen.

23-inch Apple Cinema Display
Hooked up to a 'new' PowerMac G5, this screen gives plenty of workspace.

iPhone 3G
It may be a few years old, but Neil's iPhone – loaded with around 60 apps – always goes with him.

12-inch PowerBook G4 867MHz
This is a great machine, and many wish Apple made a 12-inch MacBook Pro today.

>> PROFILE

Name: Neil Cossar
Occupation: MD, editor and PR partner
URL: thisdayinmusic.com
Been using a Mac for: Seven years
Favourite hardware: PowerBook G4
Favourite software: iTunes

While it was the anglepoise 'snowball' iMac in this picture that started Neil's Mac adventure back in 2003, it's the little PowerBook G4 that he's become most attached to.

Now perched happily on the edge of his desk alongside the rest of his Mac collection, things could have ended very differently for the little notebook. Recently, Neil knocked an entire pint of water over the machine. As water gushed out of the ports, he thought he'd killed his trusty companion once and for all. But he wasn't about to let the diminutive G4 go down without a fight, so he moved fast, whipped out the battery and proceeded to dry it out with his partner's hairdryer.

"I was horrified to see the keys melting before me!" he says. "I then left it to dry by itself and within a couple of hours it came back to life, but I had to buy a new keyboard for it to replace the damaged keys."

> *"I was horrified to see the keys melting before me. But within a couple of hours it came back to life"*

The PowerBook has been a resilient performer for Neil, who runs the This Day In Music site from his Macs. As well as having been to Egypt, Turkey and Thailand with him on holidays, it's also survived a trip through California. "We drove from San Francisco to Death Valley, Yosemite and back," Neil explains. "I remember sitting in Death Valley where it was 45°C, with the PowerBook on my knee."

As his desk shows, Neil has become a true Mac aficionado, and he's got his partner Liz to thank. Seven years ago, she got him the iMac for his birthday. "At first, I was horrified at the prospect of transferring all my data across for my site, along with the code and bookmarks, but I soon got my head around it," he reveals.

With his initial concerns banished, Macs have become central to his work. "I love *iMovie*. I'd never edited a piece of film in my life, but this makes it so easy and the results have been very rewarding," Neil enthuses. "I made several short promo films when out on the road with some of our clients. Sharon Corr from The Corrs used a video I made on her site around her last release."

And Neil isn't stopping there, either. With mobility now the name of the game, he intends to add an iPad to his growing Apple line-up, so he can do business wherever he may be. ●

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Interview: Alex Thomas

I use my Mac for recording music

Classical music producer Alexander van Ingen uses his iPad to keep in perfect pitch

»PROFILE

Name: Alexander Van Ingen
Location: London
Occupation: Classical music producer
System(s): MacBook Pro, 32GB iPad 3G
Web: www.alexandervaningen.com

Producer Alexander van Ingen uses an iPad to help him record performances by some of the world's best-known orchestras.

MacFormat: Who do you record music on your Mac with?
Alexander Van Ingen: I have worked regularly with major UK orchestras, including the Philharmonia and London Philharmonic Orchestra, to record some of their major performances. I also work with orchestras and ensembles in Russia, Kazakhstan, India, and further afield.

MF: Why a Mac and not a PC?
AVI: Although our primary recording systems are based on the Windows platform, I use my MacBook Pro under Boot Camp to run [a program called] *Pyramix* on chamber sessions. I've always used Mac notebooks; I love the way they 'just work' and connect seamlessly to peripherals, networks and so on. The iPad is starting to take on more of these duties, though. It comes into its own when recording; not so much for running a recording application – that's too much – but for consolidating a lot of ancillary things. I'm able to use the iPad to study the scores and musical material before I go to a recording session, both to read the music and also to hear it. I also have all my basic paperwork (schedules, addresses, maps, key contacts, flight tickets) in order and in the same place. Most of my work is 'on location' rather than in a studio and so, using GPS, I can get there with ease. My iPad actually stopped me getting lost when driving to both Prague and Brno for orchestral recordings this summer!

MF: When did you start using Macs for music?
AVI: I first used a Mac back in the late 80s (my cello teacher, David Wiggins, had a very early machine!). I then acquired a Quadra 630 running *Sound Designer II* around 2000. This was my first editing machine and came complete with a 'huge' 1GB external SCSI hard drive!

MF: Which apps do you use the most and why?
AVI: For recording, I use *Cleartune* as a pitch detector and a pitchfork app, *eTuner* as an alternative pitch detector and then *Subdivide* as a metronome. I'll also use *GoodReader* for reading PDFs, *OffMaps* to download maps before I go on location and then *KAYAK* for flights – I got a whole team to Astana in July this year at just 10 hours' notice, to operate lighting and sound for a 25,000-capacity stadium concert, using this app! Another favourite is *Pianist Pro,* which helps to check a few things on session, and the Zagat and Hardens' guides make sure I eat well!

© Christie Goodwin

MF: Do the iPad's small speakers hinder you in the studio?
AVI: Not at all. I use my iPad to control and to inform the music I work with, not to listen to it from the device (though I do study scores and listen to recordings with headphones).

MF: Will you ever use an iPad to record or create music?
AVI: Yes, absolutely. Working mainly in the classical music field, my job is more about music capture than creation and I certainly see myself using the iPad more and more. There are already a few apps that allow you to control a bigger recording system and to use it as a high-resolution, touch-sensitive mixing console, so it can't be long until major audio tools can be controlled from the iPad. ●

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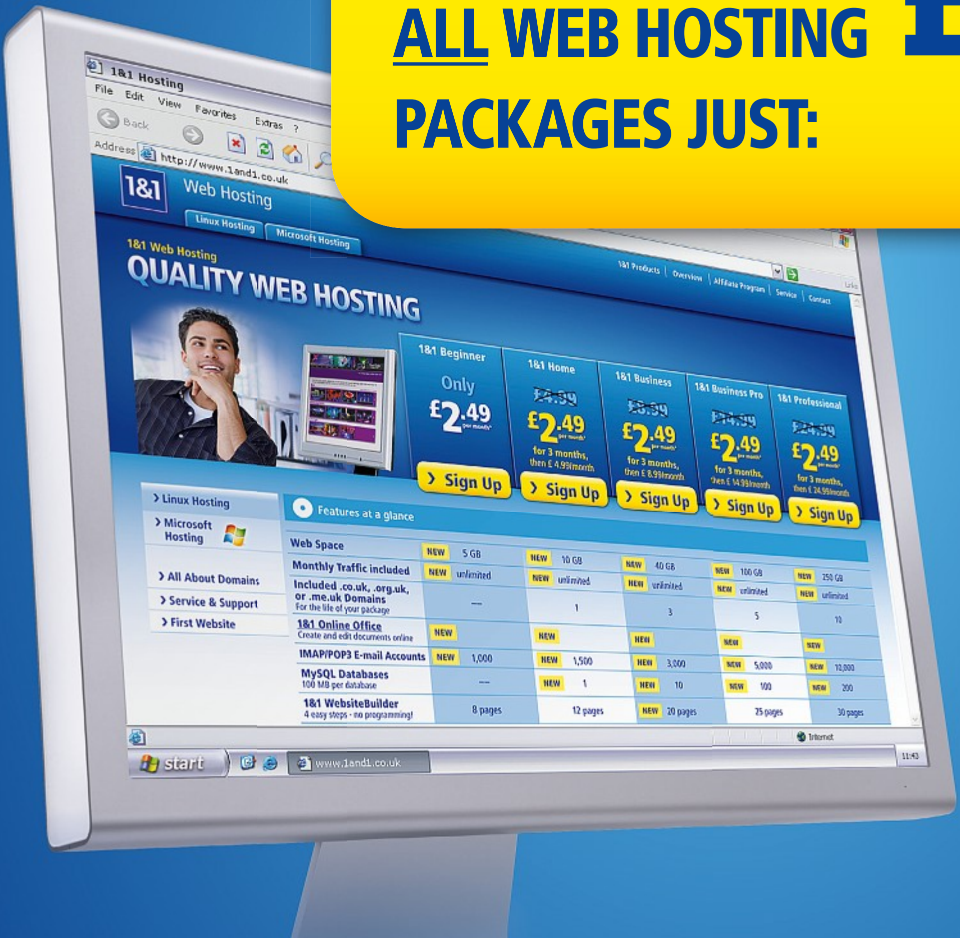
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Gadgets

The hottest kit on the horizon.
Here's what Apple is up against

◄ iLoveHandles Rock Band

$20 (£13) www.ilovehandles.net

What is it? It's a leather strap that turns your brand-new iPod nano into a watch. It even has a special notch that accommodates the nano's built-in clip.

When's it due? Out now in the States.

Why are we excited? As soon as the new nano was unveiled, pundits predicted third-party peripheral manufacturers would flog wristbands to turn it into a watch. It didn't take long. Even so, a 'nano watch' has potential, especially down at the gym.

▼ sWaP NOVA

£200 www.s-w-a-p.co.uk

What is it? According to sWaP (which stands for 'smart Watch and Phone'), the NOVA is 'potentially the world's smallest conventional production mobile phone'. Available in black, red and a more expensive crystal special edition, it's about the size of a matchbox and weighs 43g.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? If miniscule mobiles take off, could Apple be inspired to release an iPhone nano? We doubt it, but it's an interesting thought…

▲ Arcam rCube

£500 www.arcam.co.uk

What is it? A high-fidelity iPod dock that's iPhone-certified, and has a rechargeable battery for portable use. You can stream sounds from your Mac or iDevice to up to eight rCubes, using the optional USB or dock connector dongle. Available in black or white.

When's it due? Released in October.

Why are we excited? According to Arcam, this is its most important product yet, and having attended a pre-launch demo, we're inclined to agree. It has a detailed, complete sound, so you can tell the difference between heavily compressed and high-quality MP3s.

◀ Disgo TV Go

£120 www.mydisgo.co.uk

What is it? This interesting internet TV and radio device gives access to 'over 10,000 radio stations' and 'more than 1,800 live television channels', ranging from mainstream offerings from the BBC and ITV, to foreign-language and niche-content viewing. We're assured all advertised channels are available in the UK. It has a 3.5-inch, 320x240 TFT LCD screen and two 2W speakers, and is battery- or mains-powered.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? It's not exactly HDTV, but as a bedside online goggle box, it looks great fun.

▼ Jorno Bluetooth Keyboard

$99 (UK price TBA)

www.jornostore.com

What is it? This Bluetooth keyboard packs down to pocket size, includes a detachable cradle for your iPhone, iPod or Android phone and is rigid when unfolded, so you can use it on your lap.

When's it due? Early 2011.

Why are we excited? Is this the keyboard we've all been waiting for? With keys just 15% smaller than a standard-sized keyboard, it will certainly make typing those emails easier, but it's not so bulky that you hesitate to take it with you when out and about. We're looking forward to this one.

▲ Combine Collective Keyboard Tray

From $60 CDN (about £38)

www.combinecollective.ca

What is it? Made from beautiful black walnut, this wooden tray is available in three versions. The one pictured here holds the Apple Wireless Keyboard, Apple Remote and Magic Trackpad. There's also one for just the keyboard and trackpad, and one to store the keyboard alone. Left-handed versions are available too.

When's it due? Order now from Canada.

Why are we excited? It's absolutely gorgeous. Sometimes, it really is as simple as that. Unfortunately, shipping from Canada costs more than the tray. Here's hoping easier UK availability is on its way.

Feedback

>>CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address:
macformat@futurenet.com

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Almost bereft

You assert that *MacFormat* is the UK's number one Mac magazine and similar assertions are made in the magazine itself. But, by my lights, it is superior to all of the Mac magazines available to me in the US too!

Just as I believe that *MacFormat* is the best Mac magazine, I believe that the now-deceased *MacFormat* podcast was the best Mac-related podcast. Partly that was a consequence of its professionalism and its thoughtful organisation each week. But it was also due to the deep technical and market knowledge and savviness of the folks who participated in the podcast. The MC, Brad Gibson, and others including, but not limited to, Christopher Phin, Graham Barlow, Ian Osborne, and Craig Grannell. My complaint is that you have terminated the podcast.

Whatever the reason, you should know that at least one listener feels almost bereft. I was always pleased when the podcast arrived and invariably valued what I learned, as I listened to the podcast on my lengthy walks through the redwoods just north of San Francisco.

Whether or not you follow up on my suggestion, you should know how appreciated *MacFormat* is even when judged against the high price for the magazine when subscribed to from the United States.

Bill Pollak

Tap!
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techradar.com

Look out for Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine, on sale 25 November.

MacFormat replies: Thank you for your kind words, Bill. The *MacFormat* podcast is on hiatus while we work on some other exciting projects here at *MacFormat*, the first of which will be launched very soon. We're talking about *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine* (www.tapmag.co.uk). You can find out more about it on page 10, but in short, this new bimonthly title has everything an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch

>>STAR LETTER / Back up, back up, back up!

As a subscriber to the magazine, I heeded the warnings about backing up the hard drive, and soon after buying my first ever MacBook, I bought an external hard drive for this purpose.

Other dire warnings in your magazine later prompted me to then buy a portable hard drive for further backups. My husband thought I was nuts and accused me of buying the white LG drive because it was pretty and matched the Mac!

Today, I was updating a commercial website and, to my absolute horror, discovered I had deleted the root file. To make matters worse, I had emptied the deleted files folder!

I wasn't at home, but just before plunging into deep despair, I rushed over to my computer case. There it was – my pretty little portable hard drive. Within two minutes, my lost file was back on the Desktop! Deep joy ensued!

So, thank you, *MacFormat*, for constantly driving home the message: back up, back up and back up again!

Valerie Whately

MacFormat replies: Thanks very much for the email, Valerie. With *Time Machine* built into OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, there really is no excuse for not backing up your Mac, and a small portable hard drive is the perfect thing to back up to. And if you're really wary, why not try a cloud-based service, such as www.dropbox.com.

The Iomega eGo Desktop came top in our HD group test (MF227).

>>STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

VirusBarrier X6
Your filters are 18 days old.
Your subscription ends in 12 months
Check Now
Quarantine
Trusted Files
Schedules
Scan Settings
Overview
Firewall
Antivandal
Surf
Privacy
Malware Protection
Network Protection
Antivirus mode
OFF
Firewall mode
Client, local server
26,899 files
Counting...
on-demand scanner
Quarantine 0
Schedules 0
Trusted Files 0
Anti-Phishing
Web Threat Protection
Blocked Addresses 0
Select
Stop
Protection Disabled
Incoming
Outgoing
Real-Time Activity
Real-Time Files Scanned

The Real-Time scanner is currently disabled.

Only computers on your local network can connect to your Mac as a server. You still have access to the Internet.

We reviewed VirusBarrier X6 in issue 219. But does the Mac need antivirus apps?

owner could need to find the best apps and add-ons for their devices.

We also felt that the format we had adopted for our podcast had run its course, and it was time to restart it with a fresh new approach. Keep your ears open, because the *MacFormat* podcast will be back!

Mac security

I'm a new Mac user concerned about internet security. I was informed that Macs don't require security packages to protect them. Is this correct or am I just being paranoid?

If a package is required, can you point me in the right direction as to which system is recommended and how to configure the package?

Tom Tully

MacFormat replies: Great question, Tom. The issue of whether you actually need anti-virus software on a Mac remains contentious. While there are a few pieces of Mac malware that have been found 'in the wild' (such as key loggers), the major threat from computer viruses on the Mac is that you'll inadvertently pass on a Windows virus to a Windows user via an email.

The topic of internet security is wider than just viruses though – we're talking about spam, phishing sites and identity theft. There are plenty of products for the Mac that will do their best to protect you from these sorts of things. You might like to investigate Intego's range of 'Barrier' products (*Internet Security Barrier* and *VirusBarrier*, free trials of which are available from www.intego.com). Symantec also has its *Norton Internet Security* package (get a free trial from http://uk.norton.com).

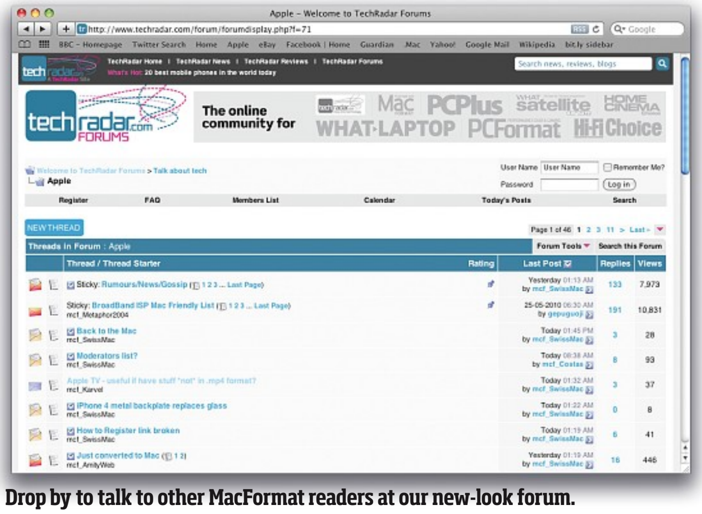
OS X does have some level of built-in malware detection too – you may have found *Safari* warning you about certain websites, or received a system message alerting you that a file you've downloaded could 'damage your computer'. Always heed these messages, as they are quite correct and should be followed. Finally, there's also the free *iAntiVirus* application, which scans your Mac for known OS X-specific malware and removes it quite successfully. You can pick up a copy by directing your browser to www.iantivirus.com.

PC riffraff

Having just received the November issue of *MacFormat*, I note that there is no mention whatsoever of the forum switch to TechRadar. Is this because you feared a massive backlash and wanted to limit the damage? I don't suppose I'm the first to complain about this terrible decision made by *MacFormat* to switch to the TechRadar forum. It is an appalling forum with a poor user interface and unattractive web pages, and has no discernible area to place a Mac-related forum. Not only that, it's mixed with all the other PC riffraff, which is of no interest at all to Mac users.

Barry Lucas

MacFormat replies: Barry is referring to the recent migration of the *MacFormat* forum from the old site running phpBB software to a new site hosted by Future Publishing's successful online technology portal, TechRadar.com. This move was necessary because the old software had become very out of date, and we also wanted to bring together Future's different magazine forums to form one large forum with more users. We didn't announce it in the magazine because we weren't 100% sure of the date of the switchover, due to technical issues. There were indeed some initial teething problems with the TechRadar forum, but these have mostly been resolved now, and *MacFormat* has


Apple – Welcome to TechRadar Forums
http://www.techradar.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=71
Google
BBC – Homepage
Twitter Search
Home
Apple
eBay
Facebook | Home
Guardian
Mac
Yahoo!
Google Mail
Wikipedia
bit.ly sidebar
TechRadar Home
TechRadar News
TechRadar Reviews
TechRadar Forums
What's Hot: 20 best mobile phones in the world today
Search news, reviews, blogs
techradar.com FORUMS
The online community for
Mac
PCPlus
What Satellite
Home Cinema
WHAT LAPTOP
PCFormat
Hi-Fi Choice
Welcome to TechRadar Forums > Talk about tech
Apple
User Name
Password
Remember Me?
Log in
Register
FAQ
Members List
Calendar
Today's Posts
Search
NEW THREAD
Page 1 of 46 1 2 3 11 > Last »
Threads in Forum : Apple
Forum Tools
Search this Forum

Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Last Post	Replies	Views
Sticky: Rumours/News/Gossip (1 2 3 ... Last Page)		Yesterday 01:13 AM by mcf_SwissMac	133	7,973
Sticky: BroadBand ISP Mac Friendly List (1 2 3 ... Last Page) mcf_Metaphor2004		25-05-2010 06:30 AM by gepuguoji	191	10,831
Back to the Mac mcf_SwissMac		Today 01:45 PM by mcf_SwissMac	3	28
Moderators list? mcf_SwissMac		Today 08:38 AM by mcf_Costas	8	93
Apple TV - useful if have stuff "not" in .mp4 format? mcf_Karvel		Today 01:32 AM by mcf_SwissMac	3	37
iPhone 4 metal backplate replaces glass mcf_SwissMac		Today 01:22 AM by mcf_SwissMac	0	8
How to Register link broken mcf_SwissMac		Today 01:19 AM by mcf_SwissMac	6	41
Just converted to Mac (1 2) mcf_AmilyWeb		Yesterday 01:19 AM by mcf_SwissMac	16	446

Drop by to talk to other MacFormat readers at our new-look forum.

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
What new features would you like to see in the upcoming OS X 10.7 Lion?

@Jaminator0101
"A completely new GUI for one! Aqua is so old now."

@cicotrell
"I want application specific volume controls - iTunes on loud, with iChat/Safari/Mail quiet."

@daviddixon
"The ability to expand aliases like folders on the Dock, a mail client that is a little less "basic", and better OpenGL support."

@danielpholt
"I think the Finder has to die, it's served its purpose and there has to be a better way to do things."

@Diing
"An iWin button."

@jobbogamer
"Personally, I'd like to see an update to iChat (FaceTime and MSN) and a UI change to match iTunes 10."

@humedini
"OS X 10.7 wishlist for me is tighter iOS integration with Wi-Fi sync for iOS devices, Apple TV-style interface when plugged into TV."

@hairydalek
"Tabbed Finder, different desktops for each space, a touch API, and an iOS layer instead of Dashboard."

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

its own area devoted to the magazine, with quick links to other forums of interest – Macintosh, iPhone and iPad, and Apple, for example. It's our hope that the great vibe of the *MacFormat* forum can continue at its new home. Check out http://forum.macformat.co.uk to find out more. All readers are welcome to join in.

The Lion's roar

With the exciting news that OS X 10.7 Lion will be previewed at the Apple event next week, do you think there will be any integration between OS X and iOS? I'd love to be able to run all my iPhone apps on my MacBook. After all, I take both of them with me wherever I go, so why not?

James Miller

MacFormat replies: From our straw poll on Twitter, it seems that the ability to run iOS apps on a Mac is one of the most requested new features of the new OS X 10.7 Lion. But, as we suspected, there was no hint that it would ever be possible at Apple's special media preview of Lion. We're not really surprised though – after all, how would you run an application designed to be used with a touchscreen device on a Mac that doesn't have a touchscreen? "Poorly" is probably the best answer!

Unlike Microsoft, which thinks that running the whole Windows 7 operating system on a touchscreen device is a good idea, Apple has wisely created a new operating system for the new environment, and that's just the way it should be.

MacBook Air

Will OS X 10.7 be able to run iPhone apps on a MacBook? Don't count on it…

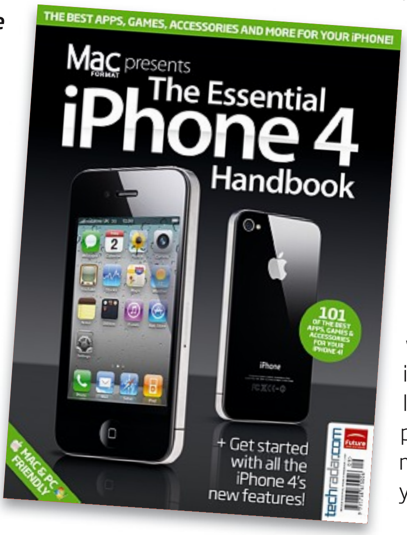
Handy book

I've just noticed that you've recently produced a special issue called *MacFormat Presents… The Essential iPhone 4 Handbook*. How do I go about buying a copy?

Jan Flemming

MacFormat replies: If you haven't heard, our *iPhone 4 Handbook* contains everything a new iPhone 4 owner could possibly want – we've also got reviews of 101 of the best apps, games and accessories available for your iPhone 4! It's available right now in selected retailers, but the good news is that you can also order your copy directly from our subscription website. The exact address for the iPhone 4 special issue page is very long, so we won't print it here, but if you go to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macformat then you'll see a link to it at the top-right of the page. Don't miss the other great offers that you can find on the same site for other Future magazines. Remember, a year's subscription to a magazine makes the perfect Christmas present!

If you'd like to order our iPhone 4 special as a Zinio eMagazine that you can read on your iPhone 4 or iPad via the free Zinio app, then head over to http://bit.ly/9PrH8q It's currently at the bargain price of just £3.99!


THE BEST APPS, GAMES, ACCESSORIES AND MORE FOR YOUR iPHONE!
Mac FORMAT presents
The Essential iPhone 4 Handbook
101 OF THE BEST APPS, GAMES & ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR iPHONE 4!
+ Get started with all the iPhone 4's new features!
MAC & PC FRIENDLY
techradar.com

MacFormat's iPhone 4 Handbook make the ideal Christmas present for a new iPhone 4 owner.

Upgrade time?

My current Mac is a G5 dual-core 1.8GHz Mac Pro with memory maximised. I also have a 320GB backup drive. All is working well. However, the question before me is, "Should I upgrade to a Mac Pro?" Is it better to update now, or leave it until later? Your opinion here would be appreciated.

Rod Brown

MacFormat replies: The question of whether to buy a Mac now or later is always a difficult one. Apple doesn't indicate when a refresh is due, but the Mac Pro line-up was refreshed back in August, so we wouldn't expect another refresh imminently. As a rough guide, the longer it has been since a Mac product line was refreshed, the more likely it will be, but with Apple you never can tell. ●

APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

08 DECEMBER

APPS WORLD, London

30 November - 1 December

This new London event at Olympia aims to explore the promising future of multi-platform apps. Areas exist for developers, mobile operators and TV apps. Expect keynote speeches and advice from a who's-who of the app industry. www.apps-world.net

MACFORMAT

Issue 229, 8 December

We'll be delivering even more on Apple as we head through the festive season.

CES, Las Vegas

7-10 January 2011

The CES Apple section expands from 4,000 to 25,000 square feet next year, leading some to wonder: is Apple also considering an exhibition space here?

BETT, London

12-15 January 2011

The world's leading technology-in-education show returns, and typically, it's a presentation area and breeding ground for plenty of Apple-related solutions and upcoming technologies.

MACWORLD, San Francisco

25-29 January 2011

Traditionally a hotbed of new products and services for OS X and iOS, but Apple won't be there.

CeBIT, Hannover, Germany

1-5 March 2011

Europe's largest technology show is a feast of electronic trickery for consumer and business users.

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- ✓ Linux & Windows New accounts included.
- ✓ Create your own web hosting packages.
- ✓ Disable, delete & edit accounts in real time.
- ✓ Fully brandable control panels and experience.
- ✓ Web hosting accounts instantly activated.
- ✓ HostPay shopping cart free.
- ✓ Generic webmail, SSL & nameservers or your own.

Ideal for Web Designers, Developers and Entrepreneurs

Start Your Own Web Hosting Company!

Web Hosting Features

- ✓ Unlimited web space & bandwidth.
- ✓ Unlimited mailboxes, forwarding & autoresponders.
- ✓ Unlimited databases, FTP & sub domains.
- ✓ Huge CGI library including WordPress & Joomla.
- ✓ Website builder & shopping carts.
- ✓ PHP, Perl, Ruby, SSL, Stats.
- ✓ Amazing control panel & file manager.
- ✓ Over 100 features for each account.

Too Much to List!
New Features Added All The Time

Check Out Our Website!

Reseller API Now Available

"Heart Internet support their customers with market-leading hosting technology at great prices"

Suzi Perry
Technology TV Presenter

HostPay

FREE with our Reseller Package

Create Your Own Hosting Company

Amazing Features Including:

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- ✓ Easy to set up and grows with your business.

Customer Management & Registration System

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Words: Ian Osborne **Photography:** Gavin Roberts

MacFormat investigates

Is a Mac mini better value than an iMac?

We help you decide which desktop Mac offers the best value for money if you're thinking of taking the plunge this Christmas

The price difference between Apple's cheapest and most expensive Macs is huge. The Mac mini costs £649, but if you've lots to spend and you configure your Mac of choice at the online Apple store, you could spend tens of thousands. We're not going that crazy here. For this technological take on David versus Goliath, we're pitching the Mac mini against the iMac we reviewed over on page 86, the top-of-the-range 27-inch model with a 256GB solid-state drive alongside its off-the-shelf 1TB hard drive.

> *"It's an intriguing battle. Both machines are consumer-oriented, unlike the Mac Pro which is more of a business computer"*

It's an intriguing battle. Both machines are consumer-oriented, unlike the Mac Pro which is more of a business computer. And although the iMac is obviously far more powerful, at £2,249, it's also a lot more expensive. If money was no object it would demolish the far cheaper Mac mini, but as it stands, it must work really hard to justify the £1,600 price difference.

So which Mac offers better value for money? The Mac mini, with its (relatively) low price and a performance that's fine for day-to-day computing, or the mighty top-of-the-range iMac, boasting incredible power, a gorgeous display and a solid-state drive? We devised a series of tests to put them through their paces. Apple's entire iMac range has now moved to Intel's new Core-i series chips. The one on test here has an immensely powerful quad-core 2.8GHz Core i5 processor with some significant performance-enhancing features. Turbo Boost, which is lacking on the Core i3 chips used by the rest of the iMac range, shuts down inactive cores and boosts the power of active ones for increased clock speed. Also, an integrated memory controller limits the time the CPU spends waiting for data to arrive.

Unfortunately for the Mac mini, a legal dispute prevents NVIDIA graphics chipsets

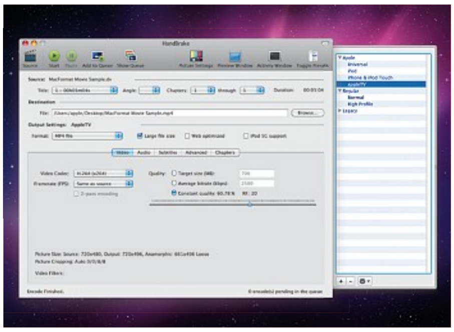
»

Is our top-of-the-range iMac worth the extra money, or would you be better off with a Mac mini?

from being integrated into Core-i processors, and the mini's small form factor makes it impossible to include discrete graphics. As a Core i3 processor without a discrete GPU would be a backwards step in graphics power, Apple was forced to stick with the older Core 2 Duo processor in the Mac mini, opting for a 2.4GHz version with the mid-2010 release.

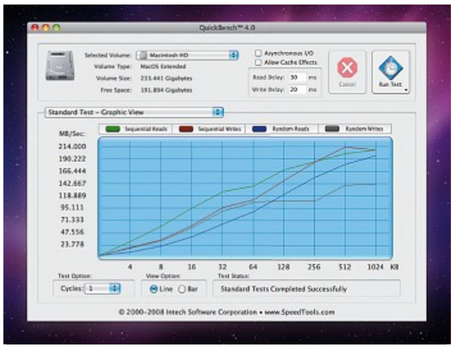
For our first test, we used the popular benchmarking utility *Xbench* to see how the processors compared. *Xbench* can test a wide range of Mac ecosystems such as hard drives, memory, threads and OpenGL, but here we restricted it to benchmarking the processor. Taking the average of three tests, the iMac scored 225.36, with the Mac mini coming in at 170.9. A convincing win for the iMac, but considering the price difference, the mini was far from disgraced.

Raw benchmarks can be a little nebulous, so we next tried a real-world test. After downloading the popular – and extremely processor-intensive – video conversion utility *Handbrake*, we encoded a five-minute test video using its Apple TV output settings. The iMac managed it in 175.5 seconds, whereas the Mac mini took 520 seconds, almost three times as long. But given the iMac costs almost three and a half times as much as the mini, Apple's small form factor Mac once again held its own.


Handbrake is a free, powerful video conversion utility.

How well can the iMac and Mac mini run Doom 3?

We tested the two Macs' audio capabilities with iTunes.


QuickBench™ 4.0
Selected Volume: Macintosh HD
Volume Type: MacOS Extended
Volume Size: 233.441 Gigabytes
Free Space: 191.894 Gigabytes
☐ Asynchronous I/O
☐ Allow Cache Effects
Read Delay: 30 ms
Write Delay: 20 ms
Cancel
Run Test
Standard Test – Graphic View
Sequential Reads
Sequential Writes
Random Reads
Random Writes
MB/Sec:
214.000
190.222
166.444
142.667
118.889
95.111
71.333
47.556
23.778
4
8
16
32
64
128
256
512
1024
KB
Test Option:
Cycles: 1
View Option:
● Line ○ Bar
Test Status:
Standard Tests Completed Successfully
© 2000–2008 Intech Software Corporation • www.SpeedTools.com
QuickBench worked the two machines' boot volumes.

Glorious graphics

On paper, the iMac's graphical capabilities roundly trounce the Mac mini's. Its ATI Radeon 5750 with 1GB of onboard GDDR5 SDRAM is a significant step up from the HD 4850 with 512MB used by the previous generation's top-of-the-range iMac. As the mini doesn't have room on the logic board for discrete graphics, it uses an integrated NVIDIA GeForce 320M chipset. This isn't such a weak option. The 320M is currently the fastest integrated graphics solution available, and it's up to twice as fast as the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M used before. We tested with *Cinebench 11.5*, a tool that gives comparable ratings for 3D rendering. Again taking the best of three tests, in order to focus on the graphics card we recorded the OpenGL score rather than the CPU benchmark we use for our graphs in Mac reviews. This test renders a complex 3D scene using almost a million polygons and a range of advanced graphical effects. The Mac mini achieved an average running speed of 11.57 frames per second, which is pretty good considering the complexity of the scene being rendered. The iMac, however, scored a smooth 32.07FPS – almost three times the rate offered by the mini.

> *"Apple was forced to stick with the older Core 2 Duo processor in the Mac mini, opting for a 2.4GHz version with the mid-2004 release"*

It's a similar story with our test game, *Doom 3*. After setting the screen resolution to 1024x768 pixels and cranking graphical effects to Ultra Quality, the Mac mini ran it at an average of 54.2FPS, which is far from shabby. But the iMac managed a scorching 185.3FPS, almost three and a half times as quick as the mini. This figure is on a par with their comparative costs, but hard-core gamers will appreciate the super-speedy frame rates offered by the iMac. Everything feels snappier and more responsive.

EVOLUTION OF THE MAC MINI / Apple's micro machine takes shape and comes of age

Power Mac G4 Cube (2000)

Apple's iconic G4 Cube was the precursor to the small form factor Mac mini.

Mac mini (2005)

The original Mac mini featured a white polycarbonate plastic top and base section.

Aluminium Mac mini (2010)

The unibody refresh has a slightly larger footprint, but is smaller by volume.

>> A MAC AT HOME

With its small size, HDMI port and networking capabilities, the Mac mini trumps the Apple TV in some respects and makes an excellent, if costly, media machine.

So the Mac mini is no slouch in the graphics department, but for high-intensity tasks such as gaming and rendering, you likely want an iMac.

A study in storage

The Mac mini has a standard 320GB hard drive, with the iMac offering a 1TB hard drive and an extra 256GB solid-state drive used as the boot volume. This SSD is the main reason our test iMac costs so much, adding £600 to the price of the off-the-shelf, 2.8GHz Core i5 machine. Clearly it's not cheap, but is it worth it?

We fired up a copy of *QuickBench* to test the speeds of the two Mac's boot volumes – in other words, the Mac mini's 320GB, 5400rpm hard drive, and the iMac's 256GB solid-state drive. Unsurprisingly, the iMac's SSD proved faster, but the degree by which it outpaced its rival was aggravated by the Mac mini's relatively slow hard drive. At 5400rpm, it's substantially slower than the secondary 1TB 7200rpm HDD used in the iMac. The iMac's solid-state drive outpaced the Mac mini's hard drive by over 250% in the sequential read and write tests. In the random read/write tests, which are more relevant to the real world, it was 830% and 628% faster respectively.

> *"When comparing monitors, you might expect a clear win for the iMac, as the mini doesn't have one. But could this be an advantage?"*

Naturally, applications launched a lot faster on the iMac, with the *iWork* apps bouncing only once in the Dock before opening. On the mini, they took between two bounces (*Pages*) and 10 (*Numbers*). To test the iMac further, we tried opening *iPhoto*, *iCal*, *Address Book*, *Safari* and all three *iWorks* apps simultaneously. They opened just as quickly. Watching seven icons bounce once as the screen fills with windows is surreal. You see a lot less of the dreaded beach ball when using the iMac, especially if you regularly have lots of applications open at the same time.

On display

When comparing monitors, you might expect a clear win for the iMac, as the mini doesn't have one. But could this be an advantage? The 27-inch iMac's screen is a gorgeous IPS display, with excellent viewing angles and a 16:9 aspect ratio. Its pixel resolution of 2560x1440 is beyond HD, and its LED backlighting brings it to full brightness as soon as you switch it on. But the mini has a HDMI port, and is supplied with an adapter so you can connect it through DVI instead if you wish. This means it can be connected to pretty much any modern display. It can be any size – as cheap or as expensive as you like – and if you don't like glossy screens, you can opt for a matte display. The iMac is only supplied with a glossy screen; there isn't even a custom option for matte, which is especially galling considering every MacBook Pro except the 13-inch model has an antiglare option.

There's nothing wrong with the iMac's screen; quite the opposite, in fact. But if it isn't to

»

>> HISTORY OF THE iMAC

hello
(again)
iMac

Original iMac (1998)

The first iMac used a G3 CPU and a 15-inch CRT screen. It was an instant hit.

Anglepoise iMac (2002)

The G4 iMac gave us a widescreen LCD and an interesting new form factor.

White iMac (2004)

G5 and early Intel iMacs had a white, wall-mountable polycarbonate body.

Aluminium iMac (2007)

The aluminium iMac arrived in 2007, with this unibody model following in 2009.

your personal tastes, or if you already have a monitor going unused, the Mac mini's lack of a supplied display could work in its favour.

Wired for sound?

Both of our machines have built-in audio, but they're both pretty bad. Using *iTunes* on the iMac, our test music sounded tinny and lacking in bass and depth. There was no great stereo separation, and it did nothing to shape the sound. It was the same story on the Mac mini, just with no stereo separation at all.

Naturally, if you're only going to use your computer for web surfing, email and basic computing tasks, the internal audio might be sufficient for your needs. But if you plan to put your machine to any sort of multimedia use such as music or video, you should invest in external speakers.

A host of extras?

The iMac offers everything you need to get your computer up and running, but the mini only gives you a base Mac – you must add any required peripherals yourself. And some of them are definitely required. You won't get far without a keyboard and mouse, and unlike the iMac, the mini has no built-in iSight webcam.

Yet what we said about monitors also applies here, perhaps even more so. You might well have a spare mouse or keyboard lying around unused, and even if you do need to go out and buy something, with the Mac mini, you get to choose what you use. Apple keyboards and the Magic Mouse are, of course, available from your local Apple store, but you don't have to go down the Apple route – not everyone likes the Magic Mouse. If you'd prefer a more traditional design with two buttons and a scroll wheel, chances are you can find one for less than half the price of the mouse that's bundled with the iMac. You could even forego the mouse altogether and opt for an alternative navigation device, such as a trackball, Magic Trackpad, or even a graphics tablet and stylus!

So is a Mac mini better value than an iMac? Ultimately, yes. As our tests showed, on a price-to-performance ratio, Apple's small form-factor machine certainly holds its own against a high-end iMac with a costly solid-state drive. It's very capable for its size, and more than powerful enough for day-to-day computing tasks such as email, web surfing and word processing. The mini enjoys a couple of key advantages over the iMac too. It has a HDMI-out port, making it ideal as a living-room media centre Mac, and its size means it's extremely portable, especially now the power supply is built into the casing. If you really wanted you could set up a monitor and keyboard at home and at work, and carry the mini between them with ease. You certainly wouldn't want to do this with a 27-inch iMac! Yet if you crave that all-in-one experience, or you really want to play the latest 3D games then the iMac is clearly the machine of choice - the mini just can't complete as a games machine.

> *"Apple's small form-factor Mac mini certainly holds its own against a high-end iMac with an expensive solid-state drive"*

Whether you buy a Mac mini or a top-of-the-range iMac or something in between is entirely up to you. We hope we've gone some way towards making up your mind. Don't discount the mini just because it's small. And don't forget the MacBook range, too! All Macs have their strengths and weaknesses, and their own role to play in Apple's Mac line-up. ●

PRICING UP THE EXTRAS

Mac mini peripherals can be as cheap or pricey as you like. Here's what you might spend at the likes of **www.amazon.co.uk**.

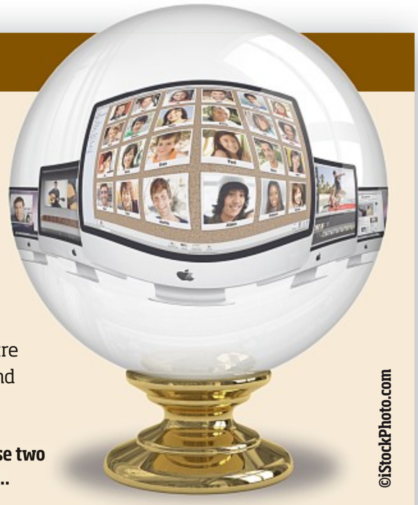
Hannspree monitor	£159
Logitech keyboard	£60
Microsoft mouse	£28
Eyeball webcam	£50
TOTAL	**£297**

THE FUTURE / Where the Mac mini and iMac might be headed

Given the iMac's superb high-resolution screen and the Mac mini's usefulness as a living-room media computer, it's a real shame that neither offers Blu-ray video. Not only do they lack Blu-ray drives (even as a custom option), but OS X doesn't support Blu-ray video so you can't even play HD movies from an external Blu-ray drive. Given Apple's attitude to Blu-ray and its emphasis on HD-movie downloads, we can't see this changing any time soon. But we wish the powers that be in Cupertino would make their peace with the format and let us watch our Blu-ray discs on our Macs as well as our televisions.

The iMac should really offer a matte screen option. Not everyone likes a glossy display, and if the larger MacBook Pros can be customised with antiglare screens, why not the iMacs? Another feature that could usefully move across from the MacBook Pros is a user-serviceable SATA bay for replacement hard drives or solid-state drives.

The Mac mini's usefulness as a media centre is currently hampered by the limitations of Apple's *Front Row* software. It's looking very long in the tooth, and could use an overhaul. In fact, we would love to see a dedicated Mac mini Media Centre Edition, with a Blu-ray drive and Apple TV's capabilities.



What could the future hold for these two Macs? We look into our crystal ball...

©iStockPhoto.com

Head to head

How do the Mac mini and the 2.8GHz Intel Core i5 iMac with SSD stack up, and what are their strengths and weaknesses?

MODEL	MAC MINI	iMAC
SPECIFICATIONS	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM (expandable up to 8GB), 320GB 5400rpm hard drive, 8x double-layer SuperDrive, NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics	2.8GHz Intel Core i5 quad-core processor, 27-inch 2560x1440 resolution IPS screen, 4GB of 1333MHz DDR3 SDRAM (expandable up to 16GB), 1TB 7200rpm hard drive, 256GB solid-state drive, 8x double-layer SuperDrive, ATI Radeon HD 5750 graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory
WHAT'S IN THE BOX	Mac mini, HDMI-to-DVI adapter, power cord, install/restore DVDs, printed and electronic documentation	iMac, Apple Wireless Keyboard, Apple Magic Mouse, power cord, install/restore DVDs, printed and electronic documentation, cleaning cloth
PRICE COMPARISON	The Mac mini costs £649 off the shelf. Only one configuration is available, unless you use the custom options on the Apple online store. Because the mini is supplied without a monitor, keyboard or a mouse, the cost of these items must be factored in, unless you already have them.	Off the shelf, the 27-inch 2.8GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 iMac costs £1,649, but the version we tested here also includes a custom option, namely a 256GB solid-state drive for an extra £600. As the iMac comes supplied with a keyboard and mouse, and has a built-in screen, there are no further expenses.
PERFORMANCE	Xbench CPU test **170.9** Handbrake encoding, five-minute sample video: **520 secs** Cinebench OpenGL test: **11.57FPS** Doom 3 frame rate, maximum graphics settings: **54.2FPS** Sequential read/write speeds in MB/s, HDD: **47.932/47.295** Random read/write speeds in MB/s, HDD: **11.933/14.036**	Xbench CPU test: **225.36** Handbrake encoding, five-munite sample video: **175.5 secs** Cinebench OpenGL test: **32.07 FPS** Doom 3 frame rate, maximum graphics settings: **185.3 FPS** Sequential read/write speeds in MB/s, SSD: **135.621/119.405** Random read/write speeds in MB/s, SSD: **99.088/88.088**
PROS AND CONS	⊕ It saves on space ⊕ Powerful new integrated graphics chipset ⊕ Runs almost silently ⊕ Can choose your own peripherals ⊖ Retains Core 2 Duo processor ⊖ A little overpriced	⊕ Incredible 27-inch screen ⊕ Fast new processor ⊕ Excellent discrete graphics ⊕ Supplied with everything you need ⊖ SSD option very expensive ⊖ No matte screen option
VERDICT	"Although nowhere near as powerful as the iMac, the Mac mini puts in a strong performance for its size. It's ideal as an under-the-TV media centre Mac, easy to carry around and more than good enough for day-to-day computing."	"This top-of-the-range iMac is incredibly powerful, and ideal for high-end computing tasks such as video editing or rendering. Everything you need is in the box. It's very expensive, though, especially this custom model with a 256GB SSD."

©iStockPhoto.com

Words: Luis Villazon

Networking questions ANSWERED!

Networks changed the world. Here's your guide through the networking landscape that's closer to home…

Networks can be complex. They're a lot better than they used to be, but they're still the most complicated part of your Mac. When you send a document to a networked printer, it's handed down from one protocol to another, broken into chunks, each with their own addressing scheme, until eventually it's transmitted as radio signals to represent those bits and bytes.

As your print job flies through the air, it encounters interference and cross-talk from mobile phones, microwaves and power tools. Your Wi-Fi access point plucks this signal from the air and reassembles the scrambled mess. Small errors are corrected, large errors are replaced with valid data, patiently re-sent. Your router reads the address on each packet and chooses the best way to pass it to its destination. At the printer, the packets of data are placed in the correct order, the envelopes are opened and the wrappers discarded. As your document is finally translated from electricity to ink, the printer sends you a confirmation message that this miraculous endeavour has succeeded. And to get to you, that message makes the same incredible journey back through the protocol layers and across the airwaves to reach your Mac.

At least, that's what you *hope* happens. With so many different steps, it's no wonder that things sometimes go wrong. Network problems can feel daunting, with intermittent faults and error messages. But we're going to put a stop to all that. With our guide, we'll show you how your network is put together and where the choke points are. We'll cover how to set up a new network and why some networks are more error-prone than others. We'll tell you what kit to buy and what to avoid.

Despite all this, your network may still sometimes break. Long after death and taxes have both been abolished, network problems will remain. Home networking is a rough neighbourhood and you're always going to get shot at. But armed with the next few pages, you'll be able to roll for cover and return fire.

»

Networking basics

If you don't know your antenna from your cable, start here

When you get broadband, your internet service provider (ISP) normally supplies you with a broadband modem. This, plus your Mac, is the simplest network you can have, and for lots of people it's all the network they need. If you have ADSL broadband – the most common kind – it's delivered to your house through the phone line. At the phone socket, you plug in a filter that splits the frequency range, so that the lower 4KHz is used by voice phone calls and the rest is sent to the modem.

All current iMacs come with built-in Wi-Fi capability as well as a wired Ethernet port.

More than just a wireless back-up disk, Time Capsule is a Wi-Fi router and print server as well.

The modem takes the analogue electrical signal from the phone line and extracts the digital data stream encoded within it. This data takes the form of network 'packets' that are wrapped up using an addressing protocol called TCP/IP. (This is a fairly meaningless acronym, so don't bother trying to remember what it stands for.) Each TCP/IP packet contains a small piece of a website, or a graphic, or a downloaded file, or whatever is being sent from the internet. And every packet has a number, called an IP address, which identifies which computer or device it's intended for.

Your broadband modem has an IP address assigned to it by your ISP and, if you have a modem that plugs into a USB port on your Mac, then this IP address is available exclusively for the use of that Mac. But if you want to connect more than one computer through the same broadband connection, you need a router – if you're not sure where yours is, that's because most modern broadband modems have a router built-in. If your modem has sockets for Ethernet cables, then it is actually a modem/router.

> *"If you're not sure where your router is, that's because most modern broadband modems have a router built-in"*

Router vs modem

The router is like a telephone exchange; it assigns separate IP addresses to all the computers connected to it and acts as a single point of contact for the wider network beyond it. When an incoming TCP/IP packet arrives from the internet, the router opens it and readdresses it using the local IP addresses of your home network. This process is called Network Address Translation, or NAT. As well as enabling your broadband connection to be shared among many computers, NAT provides a measure of security from hackers, as the IP address of your Mac is never exposed to the wider internet. Only the router uses the external IP address provided by your ISP.

This anti-hacking function is called a firewall. By itself, NAT already does quite a good job, but almost all routers nowadays have much more sophisticated

» WI-FI ALTERNATIVE / Powerline networking

There are times when Wi-Fi networking isn't a practical solution. Large, old houses often extend beyond the range of Wi-Fi networks; their thick walls are full of old cables and pipes, and the floorboards are studded with nails. All of this makes for very erratic Wi-Fi transmission. Unfortunately, this sort of building is also the kind most difficult to wire with ordinary Ethernet cable.

For very small networks, where it's just a question of getting a broadband connection to a single laptop, the simplest solution is often just to use a 3G cellular modem in a USB dongle. You can plug this into the Mac directly, or you can plug it into the USB port on certain routers, such as the LM009 (**www.lm-technologies.com**).

But if you need more than that, powerline networking may be the answer. This uses the existing mains electricity wiring to send a network signal that's modulated on top of the AC mains frequency. Powerline networking is much more robust than it used to be and offers speeds better than those of Wi-Fi networks. The disadvantage is that it is a little more expensive and it requires that all the devices on the network are on the same electrical supply phase.

ALLNET
PWR
PLC
ETH
ALL168205 Ethernet Bridge
ALLNET
PWR
PLC
ETH
ALL168205 Ethernet Bridge

It's called a modem. But it's actually a router, Wi-Fi access point and firewall as well.

hardware firewalls that actively block probing attacks and make it hard for a hacker to tell that you're actually connected to the internet at all.

Going wireless

A broadband/router with a Mac connected via an Ethernet cable is the simplest configuration. But your phone socket doesn't generally come into the house right next to the Mac and most of us would rather not have to start tacking Ethernet cable around the skirting board. The solution is wireless networking, also called Wi-Fi or AirPort. A Wi-Fi connection is provided using a wireless access point and, again, most broadband modems include this in the same device. Instead of converting the TCP/IP packet into an electrical signal to transmit it along an Ethernet cable, a wireless access point broadcasts it as a radio signal. This is received by the Wi-Fi antenna in your Mac.

There are several international standards for Wi-Fi devices. They are cryptically labelled as 802.11a, 802.11b and so on, but they are usually just referred to by the last letter – as 'wireless b', for example. The most widely used systems are b, g and n. The later letters are faster, or more reliable, or both, but they are backwards-compatible with earlier Wi-Fi standards. Generally, the slowest point in your network is your broadband connection, so unless you do a lot of transfers between devices on your network (to and from a networked disk, for example) it's a non-issue.

If you want to print across your network, you can always connect the printer to one of your computers and share it from there. But this only works when that computer is running. Some printers are network-aware and can be connected to your router directly. Otherwise, you can use a print server.

» WIRELESS ROUTERS / Expand your network

LM009 - Wireless 150Mbps 3G Pocket Router N

£45 www.lm-technologies.com

This router fits in the palm of your hand, which makes it an ideal piece of kit to take with you for creating impromptu networks in hotels or at a wireless hotspot. The USB port can be used to connect an external disk or a cellular broadband dongle, and there are also two wired Ethernet ports in case you need to connect non-Wi-Fi devices.

Belkin Share wireless router

£69 www.belkin.com

The dual-plane antennae in this router help to project the wireless signal through ceilings and floors, instead of just horizontally across a single floor. Self-healing technology continuously monitors your network and detects interference and other problems. These are either fixed automatically or you're notified via a message directly on your screen.

Linksys Ultra RangePlus WRT160N

£60 www.linksys.com

As well as a powerful antenna, this router uses Multiple in, Multiple Out (MIMO) technology to boost range. Normally, signal reflections from walls and metal surfaces reduce Wi-Fi range, but with MIMO, these reflections are carefully combined to actually boost the signal strength and reduce dead spots. The WRT160N also includes four wired Ethernet ports.

Your printer is served

This device connects to your router with a wired or wireless connection and lets you plug in one or more printers. It keeps its own queue of print jobs and makes sure they go to the right printer.

> *"Time Capsule is an AirPort Extreme with a hard disk built-in. You can use it for storage or Time Machine backups"*

Apple's own-brand network devices are the AirPort Extreme Base Station, the Airport Express and the Time Capsule. An AirPort Extreme is a router with a wireless access point built-in. This is the same as the Wi-Fi router/modem from your ISP, except that it doesn't have the modem part. There are still some reasons why you might want to add an AirPort Extreme though. It has a USB port that you can use to add an external hard disk or a printer (or both if you use a USB hub); these will then be accessible across the network, from your Mac.

The AirPort Express is a cut-down version of the Extreme. It only supports 10 simultaneous wireless devices instead of 50, and only one wired connection instead of three. The USB port on the Express can only be used to network a printer, not a hard disk, but it does include a stereo speaker jack that you can use to connect speakers or an amplifier and stream your music wirelessly from your *iTunes* library on your Mac.

Time Capsule is an AirPort Extreme with a hard disk actually built-in. You can use the disk for overflow storage or you can allocate it for use with *Time Machine* backups. You can also do this with a USB drive plugged into an Airport Extreme, but it's a setup that isn't officially supported by Apple, and using a Time Capsule is a little tidier. »

You can use an AirPort Express in 'bridge mode' to extend the range of your Wi-Fi network to a distant part of the house or garden.

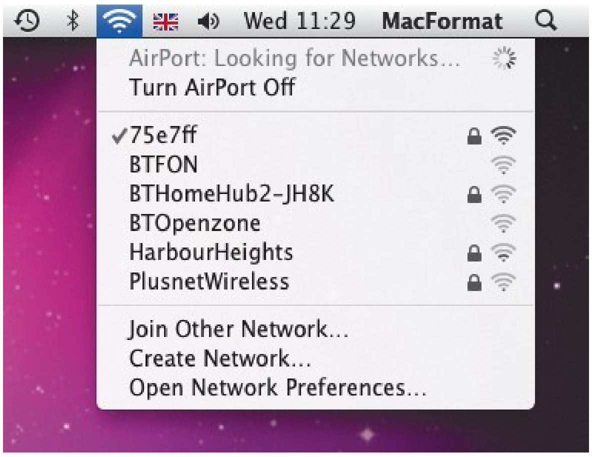
Diagnosing problems

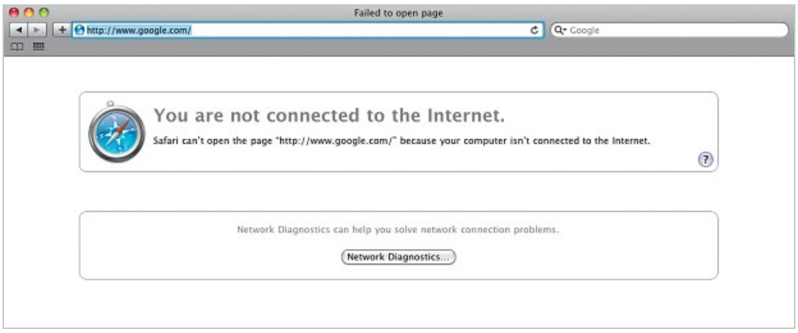
A process of elimination is the best approach to solving any issues

When a network problem strikes, it isn't always immediately obvious. It's rare to get a clear message on the screen and it's easy to imagine that your *Facebook* app has simply crashed or a website is temporarily offline.

A good first check is to open a new window in *Safari* and try pointing at www.google.com. The web requires the least complicated protocols of any of the services that run over the internet, and Google has a nice fast web page that is always up. The front page itself could be loading from *Safari's* internal cache, of course, so test your live connection to the internet by typing something random into the search box to force it to query the server.

Has your Mac accidentally connected to the wrong wireless network?





Failed to open page

You are not connected to the Internet.

Safari can't open the page "http://www.google.com/" because your computer isn't connected to the Internet.

Network Diagnostics can help you solve network connection problems.

If you can't even reach google.com, the problem is almost certainly at your end of the internet.

If you get a page of results, then you have an internet connection, at least. If you get a progress bar that goes nowhere, followed by a 'Safari can't find the server' page, you've got problems. If you have a wireless connection to your broadband router, cast a glance up at the menu bar on your Mac. The 'stripy slice of pie' icon on the right-hand side should be black. If it's greyed out, right-click it and see if you're connected to the right network. Sometimes you'll see your Wi-Fi network listed in the 'available' section, but it won't have a tick against it to show that it's selected. This is because the network briefly disappeared from the radar and OS X hasn't automatically reconnected when it came back up. Just click it on the list to reconnect. If your Wi-Fi link looks okay but you still have no internet connection, it's time to take a look at the router.

> "Broadband modem/routers are little computers running an embedded OS and they can crash, as computers do"

Broadband modem/routers are little computers running an embedded operating system and they can crash just like any other computer. If none of the lights on the front are flickering – either because they are all stuck on or they are all switched off – turn the modem off at the wall. Actually, do this even if your modem lights look normal – different modems use different light sequences to indicate problems and rebooting the modem is an easy and quick way to rule out a crash.

Light show

When your modem starts up it will begin with a power-on self-test, which is normally indicated by the power light flashing steadily. After about five seconds of this, the power light will change to steady. Next to light up will be the LAN lights for any wired Ethernet connections that are active, closely followed by the WLAN light, which should start blinking away. After that there will be a pause as your modem logs in to your ISP and then the light

>> WHAT FIREWALL? / Test your digital defences

While it's theoretically true that you can never have too much security, it's important to retain a sense of proportion. You are not the Pentagon, you do not have powerful enemies or valuable secrets. The internet is not full of black hats, targeting you for attack. What it is full of is people doing the cyber equivalent of walking down a row of parked cars, surreptitiously trying the door handles, in case one of them has been left unlocked.

A good firewall will make sure your car doors are locked. A really *great* one will make it look as if there isn't even a car parked there at all. You can test how effective your firewall is by going to **www.grc.com** and following the links to the ShieldsUP! page. Firewalls are a lot better than they used to be and you'll probably be pleasantly surprised by the results you get from the combination of the hardware firewall in your modem and the software firewall in OS X.

Of course, a firewall is only part of your internet defences. Make sure that you set a decent password for the admin account on your modem and you don't leave your Mac's guest account unsecured, for example.

orange
livebox

Consult the manual for a breakdown of what the lights on the modem mean.

» FREQUENCY ISSUE / Sources of interference

All the flavours of Wi-Fi other than 802.11a, operate in the 2.4GHz portion of the radio spectrum. This is an unlicensed frequency, which is good because it's much cheaper for manufacturers, but bad because it's very crowded. Wi-Fi protocols, particularly wireless n, are designed to hop around the channels within their permissible frequency range, but even so, there are lots of things that can cause your wireless performance to degrade or cut out altogether. The most significant is other Wi-Fi equipment. Most routers are factory-configured with the same default channel and almost no one ever bothers to change this. If your neighbours have their router placed directly on the other side of the wall from you, this could be a problem. Also if you have a Time Capsule right next to your router, by default they will both be broadcasting different Wi-Fi signals and will interfere with each other. Turn Wi-Fi off on one of them. Other significant sources of interference are microwaves and video senders, such as the boxes that extend your Sky TV signal to other rooms in the house. These are particularly bad, because they transmit continuously. Reposition your router or change Wi-Fi channel on the setup page and see if that helps.

Panasonic
SENSOR

If your router is too close to the microwave, your reception will be fried.

labelled 'broadband', 'ADSL' or just 'DSL' will come on. After that, there should be another pause before the internet light comes on to indicate that the router has been allocated an external IP address from the ISP.

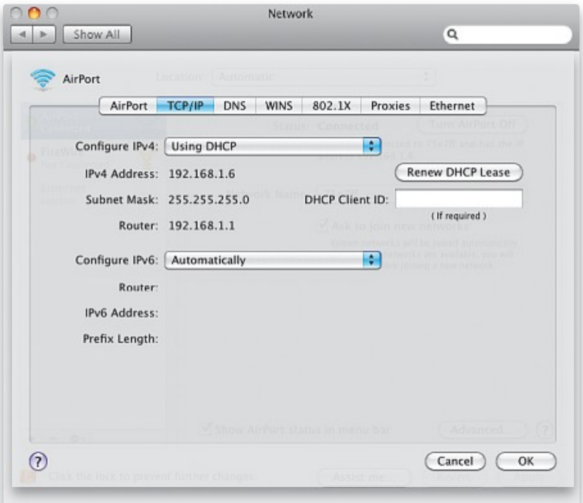
If all the lights come on in more or less this sequence, then you can be confident that the broadband modem is working fine. If any of the lights are yellow or red, or if the broadband or internet lights don't come on at all, then it could be that your modem is damaged. This can happen if the modem isn't ventilated and has overheated, or if the phone lines near your house are struck by lightning, sending a power surge to the modem. (This is why it's a good idea to disconnect the phone line from the modem if you have a big thunderstorm nearby.) Alternatively, your ISP may be having technical problems at your exchange. Try calling their support hotline to check this.

> *"When your modem starts up it begins a power-on self-test, normally indicated by the power light flashing steadily"*

Simplify, simplify

Assuming that the modem restarts correctly but your network problems remain, the next step is to take as much complexity out of your network as you can. This will help you identify which link in the chain is failing. Does your iPod touch or iPad still connect through Wi-Fi? If so, it's a sign that the problem lies with your Mac. If none of them can connect, try a wired connection. There are lots of things that can cause Wi-Fi networks to suddenly break, but most of them boil down to either incompatibility with another network device or problems with wireless security. If you have recently changed broadband provider your wireless security key will have changed, but the new modem/router might also be using a different wireless security protocol. Some older network devices and computers have problems with the newer WPA2 protocol. Try temporarily turning security off and see if that makes a difference. It's possible you might need to fall back to the older WEP protocol. This is less secure than WPA or WPA2, but it's still better than nothing. Wireless security is only to protect yourself from hackers within physical wireless range of your network, so depending on your neighbours you might not really need more than WEP.

Every device on your network must have a unique IP address. These take the form 192.168.1.n, where n is a number between 0 and 255. When you install a device, you can either choose a number for it yourself or you can let the router allocate one automatically, using a service called DHCP. Using DHCP for all devices is usually the easiest option, but some devices don't support it or behave oddly with it. If you assign static IP addresses to some of your network devices, make sure that you restrict the address range that the DHCP server on your router can use, and assign static IP addresses that do not lie in this range. »



Configure IPv4: Using DHCP
IPv4 Address: 192.168.1.6
Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0
Router: 192.168.1.1
DHCP Client ID: (If required)
Configure IPv6: Automatically
Router:
IPv6 Address:
Prefix Length:

DHCP automatically assigns IP addresses to your network. When it works, it's very convenient.

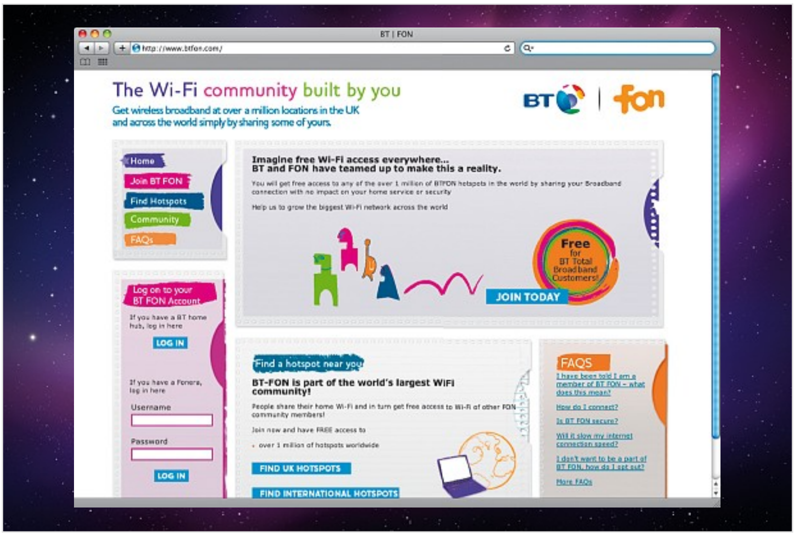
20 common network problems and fixes

Check here before you begin pulling cables out the walls!

Q **When my MacBook is right next to the wireless router, it connects, but if I move to another room, it then asks for the password, even though other computers can connect just fine.**

A This is a hardware fault with your MacBook's AirPort card or the antenna. The AirPort icon still reports a good signal because it is measuring the signal received from the router and the problem doesn't affect the receiver. But the transmitter's signal isn't strong enough to reach the router unless the range is virtually zero. It's time to get the AirPort card replaced – you can do so at an authorised Mac service centre.

AirPort wireless cards in Macs aren't immune to hardware failure – yet!


BT | FON
http://www.btfon.com/
The Wi-Fi community built by you
BT | fon
Home
Join BT FON
Find Hotspots
Community
FAQs
Free for BT Total Broadband Customers!
JOIN TODAY
Log on to your BT FON Account
LOG IN
Username
Password
LOG IN
Find a hotspot near you
FIND UK HOTSPOTS
FIND INTERNATIONAL HOTSPOTS
FAQS
I have been told I am a member of BT FON – what does this mean?
How do I connect?
Is BT FON secure?
Will it slow my internet connection speed?
I don't want to be a part of BT FON, how do I opt out?
More FAQs

Get wireless broadband at over a million locations in the UK and across the world simply by sharing some of yours.

Imagine free Wi-Fi access everywhere...
BT and FON have teamed up to make this a reality.

You will get free access to any of the over 1 million of BTFON hotspots in the world by sharing your Broadband connection with no impact on your home service or security

Help us to grow the biggest Wi-Fi network across the world

If you have a BT home hub, log in here

If you have a Fonera, log in here

BT-FON is part of the world's largest WiFi community!

People share their home Wi-Fi and in turn get free access to Wi-Fi of other FON community members!

Join now and have FREE access to

- over 1 million of hotspots worldwide

If you find yourself redirected to the BT FON page, it's time to check your network connection.

Q **I connect wirelessly to the internet with a BT Home Hub 2. Recently, *Safari* has started opening at btopenzone.com instead of my home page. What's going on?**

A If your ISP is BT, your router will create two networks – the password-protected one and an open one called BT FON that can be accessed by anyone with a BT broadband account. If your router isn't available when your Mac starts for whatever reason, you can sometimes find yourself connected to a neighbour's FON network instead. Right-click the AirPort icon and select the correct network to reconnect.

Q **My iMac used to be able to create computer-to-computer networks with my Windows laptop. Since upgrading to Snow Leopard, I can't do this. Why?**

A If you use the Mac as a Wi-Fi base station, then Windows PCs at least, won't be able to connect to your network unless you untick the Require Password box. Alternatively, use a separate wireless router and connect both computers to that.

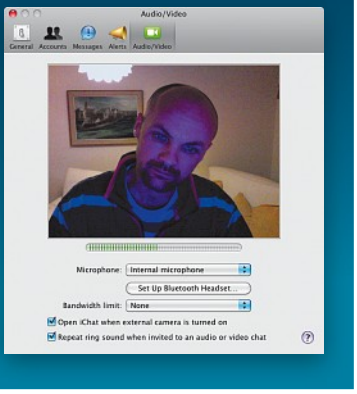
Q **How can I configure my AirPort Extreme to run both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands simultaneously, to give me two independent networks?**

A It already uses both frequencies by default. The newer wireless n

» HOW TO / Fix choppy iChat video

Q **I can use video chat with *Skype*, but *iChat* has horribly choppy video. How can I fix this?**

A *iChat* uses an external SNATMAP server to tell each party which IP address and port numbers should be used for the chat session. Some routers block this activity because it could be used by hackers. Sometimes you can get around this by unbinding the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) from the port that *iChat* uses. Check your router manufacturer's support pages for the telnet commands to do this.


Audio/Video
General
Accounts
Messages
Alerts
Audio/Video
Set Up Bluetooth Headset...
?

Microphone: Internal microphone

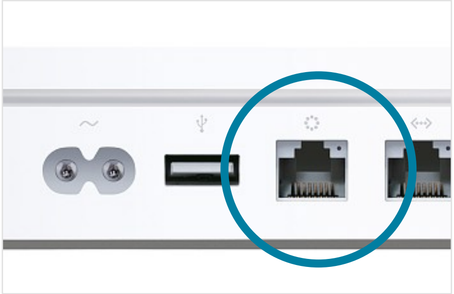
Bandwidth limit: None

☑ Open iChat when external camera is turned on

☑ Repeat ring sound when invited to an audio or video chat

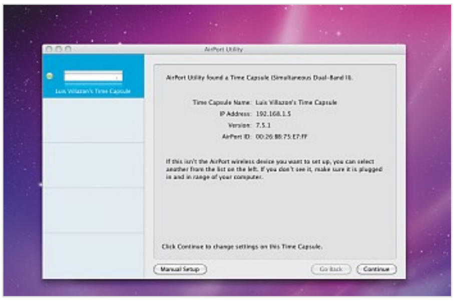
Video chatting is a lot more complicated than text.

» HOW TO / Add Time Capsule to your network



01 Initial connection

For the first backup, plug your Time Capsule directly into your Mac with an Ethernet cable. Open *Time Machine's* **Preferences**, click **Select Disk** and then **Set Up Time Capsule**. This will open the *AirPort Utility* and your Time Capsule should appear in the left-hand column.



AirPort Utility found a Time Capsule (Simultaneous Dual-Band II).

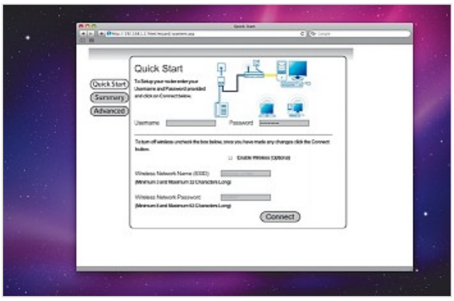
Time Capsule Name: Luis Villazon's Time Capsule
IP Address: 192.168.1.5
Version: 7.5.1
AirPort ID: 00:26:BB:75:E7:FF

If this isn't the AirPort wireless device you want to set up, you can select another from the list on the left. If you don't see it, make sure it is plugged in and in range of your computer.

Click Continue to change settings on this Time Capsule.

02 First backup

Use the setup wizard to help you with the initial configuration. Choose **Connect to a network using Ethernet**. The first backup will take a while since it must copy every file. Once it's done, unplug it from your Mac and connect it with the same cable to your broadband router.



Quick Start
Quick Start
Summary
Advanced
Username
Password
Enable Wireless (Optional)
Wireless Network Name (SSID)
Wireless Network Password
Connect

To Setup your router enter your Username and Password provided and click on Connect below.

To turn off wireless uncheck the box below, once you have made any changes click the Connect button.

03 Final settings

Run *AirPort Utility* and set the Time Capsule to **Create a wireless network**. Right-click the AirPort icon on the menu bar and switch to this network. Reduce interference by disabling Wi-Fi on the router via the web page at the IP address of your router. ●

models automatically pick whichever band offers the best reception. Separate your network traffic at the IP address level, using a router – not by using different radio frequencies.

Q **When I'm using *MS Office*, I frequently get asked whether I want the application to accept incoming network connections. Is there any particular reason why I might click 'allow'?**

A Incoming connections are network packets that were not specifically solicited by the application. *MS Office* applications listen on certain ports to receive notification of updates, for example. If you have your firewall set to block all incoming connections, it won't be able to do this and that's why it pops up the message, asking if you want to let this one through. If you trust the application, it's safe; probably safer than leaving *MS Office* unpatched, in fact.

Q **How can I use my home Mac to access my Windows XP computer at work?**

A You could use the *Remote Desktop Host* included with Windows XP Professional, but it's probably easier to use a web service like GoToMyPC.com, which enables you to access your Mac or PC from anywhere (for a price).

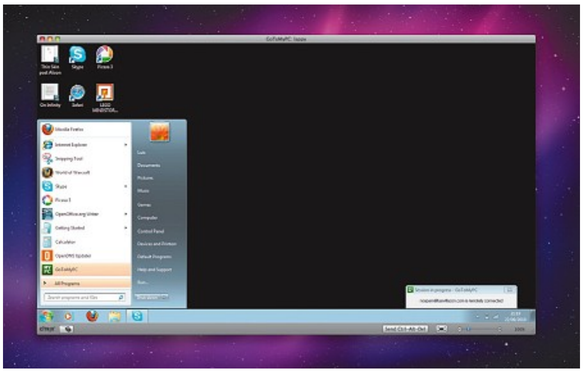
» HOW TO / Wi-Fi and my PS3

Q **I have a PS3 wirelessly connected to my network, but some games require NAT on my router to be 'open', not 'strict' or 'moderate'. How can I set this up?**

A To open NAT, you need to use the network configuration settings on the PS3 to give it a static IP address that lies outside the range managed by DHCP. For example, if your router has DHCP configured with an address range of 192.168.1.1 to 192.168.1.30, you could give your PS3 a static IP address of 192.168.1.31. Next, enable Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) and finally, forward the right ports for your game.

PLAYSTATION 3
SONY

Check your game's manual for the right ports to forward.



GoToMyPC.com lets you access a PC from any browser. There's a free 30 day trial.

Q **I use an Orange Internet Livebox, with Wi-Fi turned off, connected using Ethernet to a Time Capsule in Bridge Mode. This provides my wireless network. However, I'm restricted by the five-connection limit of the Livebox, even though I'm using the Time Capsule. How can I get round this?**

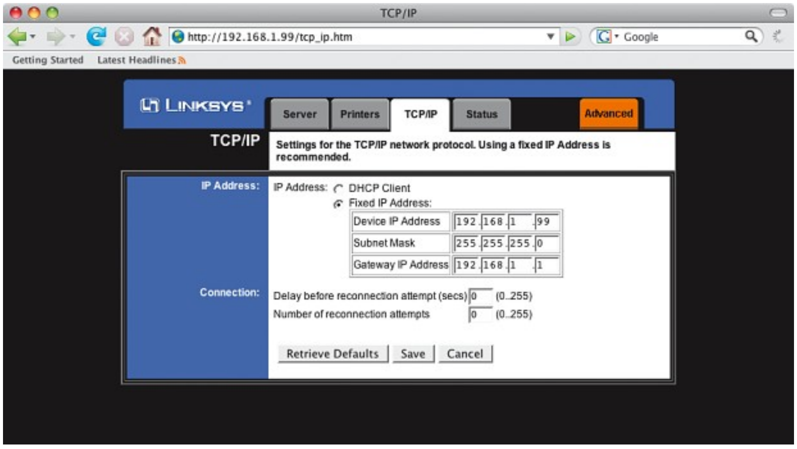
A In bridge mode, the AirPort Extreme and Time Capsule don't provide any network address translation. They just rebroadcast the network packets wirelessly, so you're still restricted to the five-address limit imposed by the Livebox.

Fortunately, however, the solution isn't a convoluted one. All you need to do is put the Time Capsule into NAT mode. This will take one of the five IP addresses handed out by the Livebox and split it into as many wireless addresses as you need.

»

Q My hard drive is only 80GB and is almost full. I am thinking of getting a 1TB Time Capsule to fix this and also provide a wireless network. Is this the best solution?

A The Time Capsule won't back itself up, so whatever files you migrate to the 1TB disk will be unprotected. Also, your files will only be accessible over a Wi-Fi connection, which is much slower than USB or FireWire. Use an external disk directly connected to your Mac for your overflow storage. Then let the Time Capsule back up both this and the internal disk.



http://192.168.1.99/tcp_ip.htm

Settings for the TCP/IP network protocol. Using a fixed IP Address is recommended.

IP Address: IP Address: ○ DHCP Client ● Fixed IP Address:
Device IP Address 192 .168 .1 .99
Subnet Mask 255 .255 .255 .0
Gateway IP Address 192 .168 .1 .1

Connection: Delay before reconnection attempt (secs) 0 (0..255)
Number of reconnection attempts 0 (0..255)

Make sure the IP address of your print server doesn't fall within the range of your router DHCP.

Q I have added a Time Capsule by connecting it directly to my broadband modem with an Ethernet cable. But my Mac now frequently selects the wrong network and *AirPort Utility* can't see the Time Capsule at all.

A Instead of connecting to the Wi-Fi network from the modem and reaching the Time Capsule through that, reconfigure the Time Capsule to create its own Wi-Fi network and turn off Wi-Fi on the modem. Having two wireless networks just increases interference.

The Time Capsule comes with 1TB of storage, apart from its Wi-Fi abilities.

Q I recently changed broadband provider. My networked printer, which used to work perfectly, now causes me to lose my network connection every time I turn it on.

A Your printer probably has a static IP address assigned which now conflicts with the IP address range used for DHCP on the new router. Change the printer to use DHCP as well, or move the static address to an unused number.

Q After reinstalling OS X, my iBook won't accept the network password, even though all the other computers in the house connect perfectly well…

A Assuming that you're definitely using the right password for the router (and not confusing the router admin password with the AirPort password, say) the most likely problem is a corrupted plist and deleting this file should fix it. You'll find it in the folder Macintosh HD\Library\Preferences\System Preferences.

Q I sometimes get an error message that comes up and says 'IP Configuration'. Nothing else seems wrong. Should I worry?

A This message occurs when another device tries to connect with the same IP address as you. You were there first, so the other device is locked out, but OS X is warning you about the conflict. Check all your network devices are using DHCP, or static IP addresses that don't overlap the DHCP range or conflict with each other.

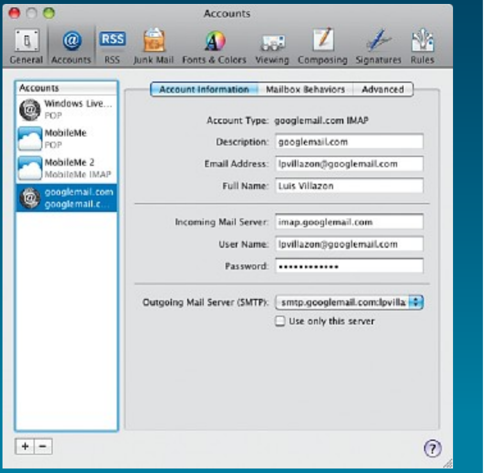
Q I have an Apple TV that I would like to set up with my Buffalo LinkStation. Can I use this drive as my location for *iTunes* on my iMac and then play music and films on my Apple TV?

A Using NAS disks for *iTunes* is probably still more trouble than it's worth. *iTunes* has a habit of reverting to a local library if the NAS is in sleep mode when *iTunes* starts. You could enable the *iTunes* server on the LinkStation itself, but Apple TV won't connect directly to that. Alternatively, connect the LinkStation directly to your Mac as an ordinary external disk. Your Mac would need to be on whenever you wanted to stream media to the Apple TV, though.

>> HOW TO / Send mail that refuses to budge

Q My main email address is with BT Internet, but on my laptop I use T-Mobile to connect through a dongle. Although I can receive email from the BT account on my laptop, I can't send unless I go to the webpage. What can I do?

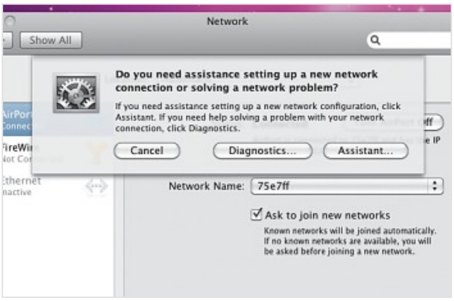
A Most ISPs will only allow you to send mail when you are connected via their server – it's a standard issue anti-spam measure. So if you use T-Mobile to connect from your laptop then your internet traffic will all be routed through that ISP before it reaches BT. You will still be able to receive email from BT, but to send any, you must either use the webmail interface associated with the service, or configure your email client to send messages via the SMTP server of the ISP hosting your connection.



Account Type: googlemail.com IMAP
Description: googlemail.com
Email Address: lpvillazon@googlemail.com
Full Name: Luis Villazon
Incoming Mail Server: imap.googlemail.com
User Name: lpvillazon@googlemail.com
Password: ••••••••••••
Outgoing Mail Server (SMTP): smtp.googlemail.com:lpvilla
☐ Use only this server

Gmail doesn't mind if you access its mail servers from another ISP, but many internet providers won't let you.

» HOW TO / Run Network Diagnostics



Do you need assistance setting up a new network connection or solving a network problem?

If you need assistance setting up a new network configuration, click Assistant. If you need help solving a problem with your network connection, click Diagnostics.

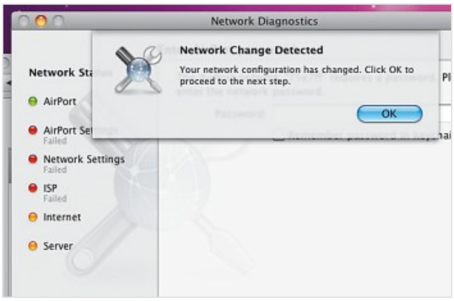
Network Name: 75e7ff

☑ Ask to join new networks

Known networks will be joined automatically. If no known networks are available, you will be asked before joining a new network.

01 Traffic lights

Open System Preferences > Network and select the network connection you want to troubleshoot. Click **Assist me…** at the bottom and then click **Diagnostics** on the drop-down dialog. Then click **Continue**. You'll see a column of green-going 'lights' labelled **Network Status**.



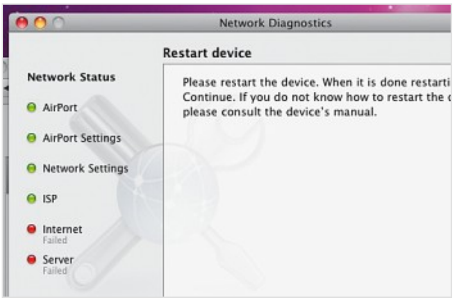
Network Change Detected

Your network configuration has changed. Click OK to proceed to the next step.

- ● AirPort
- ● AirPort Settings – Failed
- ● Network Settings – Failed
- ● ISP – Failed
- ● Internet
- ● Server

02 First point of failure

The first light (either yellow or red) indicates the most likely source of the problem. For example, if the phone cable to your router is loose, the **AirPort**, **AirPort Settings** and **Network Settings** lights will all be green, but the ISP light and those below it will be red.



Restart device

Please restart the device. When it is done restarti… Continue. If you do not know how to restart the … please consult the device's manual.

Network Status

- ● AirPort
- ● AirPort Settings
- ● Network Settings
- ● ISP
- ● Internet – Failed
- ● Server – Failed

03 Problem solved

The diagnostic utility will suggest some solutions itself, but don't expect too much. If turning the modem off and on doesn't fix things then it's all out of ideas. But you can start trying other things, like swapping out cables or checking your phone line microfilter. ●

Q What is the best way to add really old Macs (G4 and G3 iMacs) to my wireless network?

A Use a wireless bridge. It plugs into the Ethernet port on your Mac and lets the G4 ignore the wireless aspect. The bridge will relay all the traffic from the G4 to the router without the Mac ever being any the wiser. The Airport Express will do this, but Belkin and Linksys also have compatible bridges.

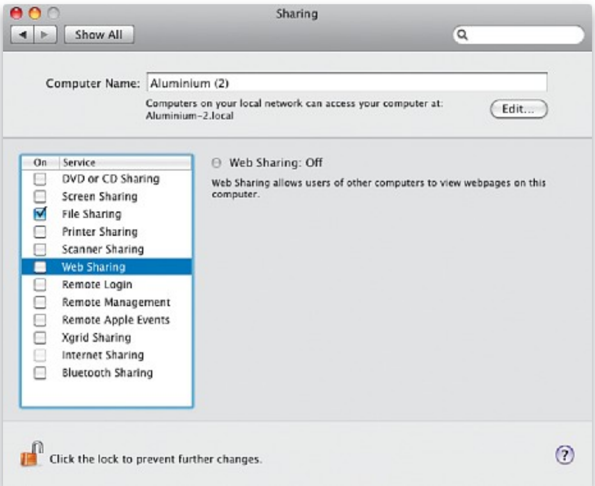
Q I have moved my *iTunes* and *iPhoto* libraries to a networked hard drive. Unfortunately, I can no longer use *Front Row* to watch or listen to my media. Is there anything I can do to point *Front Row* at an external drive?

A *Front Row* won't access networked drives directly, but you can easily create an alias to one and drop that into your **Movies** or **Music** folder. Provided that the network drive is accessible and mounted, *Front Row* should display this perfectly well, though there might be a short delay for *Front Row* to buffer the stream before it begins playing.

It's quite possible to connect an old-school Mac to your network.

Q I'm trying to connect a PC and a Mac. In *System Preferences*, under Sharing-Services, I've ticked Personal Web Sharing and under Sharing-Internet I've turned on Internet Sharing. But if my Mac has access to the internet, the PC can't get onto the web at the same time.

A Personal web sharing is just so that you can have web pages on your local hard disk that others on your network can view as if they were published on the internet; it has nothing to do with sharing an internet connection. And the **Internet Sharing** preferences setting is designed to allow your Mac to share its own internet connection with one or more computers on that network. This is what your router is already doing, and by enabling it on the Mac as well you are just tangling everything up. Turn off **Internet Sharing** on the Mac (and the PC too if it is enabled there) and just let the router handle the NAT.



Computer Name: Aluminium (2)

Computers on your local network can access your computer at: Aluminium-2.local

On	Service
☐	DVD or CD Sharing
☐	Screen Sharing
☑	File Sharing
☐	Printer Sharing
☐	Scanner Sharing
☐	Web Sharing
☐	Remote Login
☐	Remote Management
☐	Remote Apple Events
☐	Xgrid Sharing
☐	Internet Sharing
☐	Bluetooth Sharing

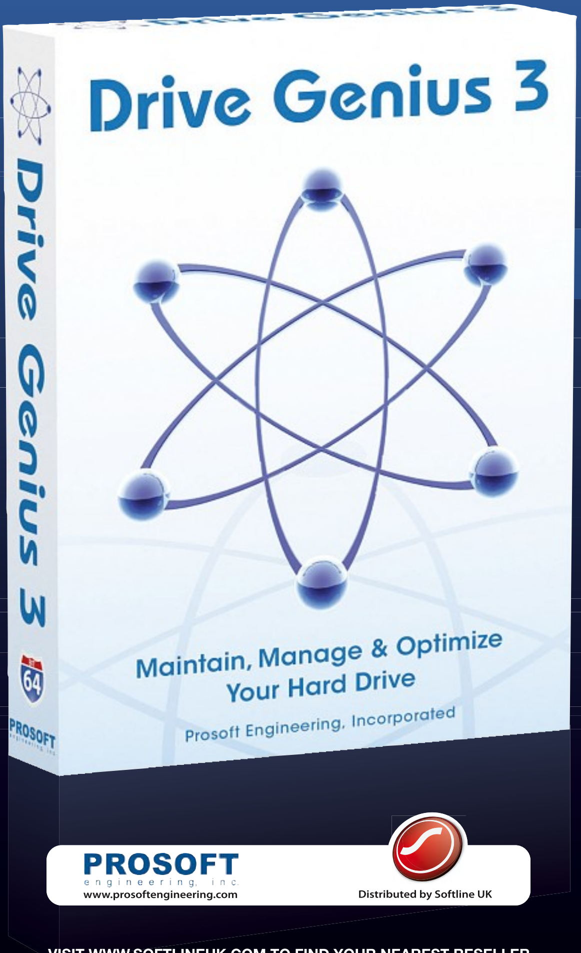
○ Web Sharing: Off

Web Sharing allows users of other computers to view webpages on this computer.

Personal Web sharing is nothing to do with connecting two computers to the internet at once. It should normally be turned off.

Q What is MAC access control and will enabling it improve my Wi-Fi security at all?

A The Media Access Control, or MAC, address is hard-coded into every network device at manufacture and is unique to each one. You'll find it by selecting **About This Mac** from the Apple menu and then clicking the **More Info…** button. Then select **Network** from the list on the left and scroll the right-hand pane all the way down to the bottom, where you should see the MAC address in question presented as six, two-digit, hexadecimal numbers. ●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- Scan
- 64-bit
- DrivePulse®
- Raid Support
- Email Notifications
- Enhanced Defrag
- Enhanced Repartition

- Repair
- Sector Edit
- Shred
- Clone
- Initialize
- DriveSlim®
- Benchtests
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"Facebook? Twitter? Old news, Apple says; it's all about Ping now!"

GET STARTED WITH THE MUSIC NETWORK P50

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

True, most of my time this month – and indeed for quite a while – has been spent putting together the launch issue of *Tap!* (see p10), but that doesn't mean I've been slacking at *MacFormat* magazine! You'll find as varied and useful a collection of tutorials in this issue as ever.

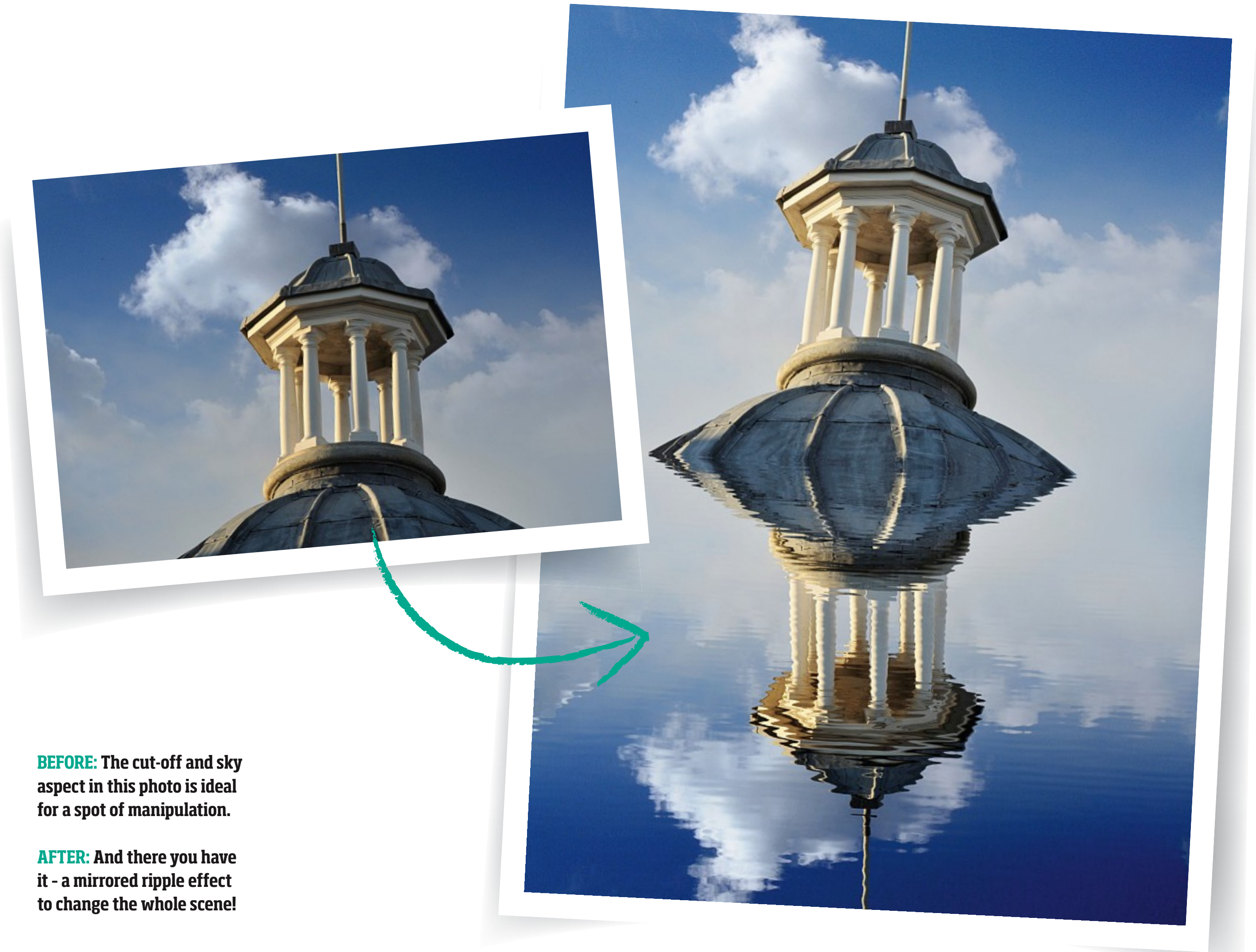
One of my favourites is on page 56, and it's all about adding features to *Safari*. While the lure of *Chrome* is strong, and *Firefox* still has many fans (despite getting a bit bloated in recent years), I've never found reason enough to switch from *Safari* as my default browser, and now that Apple offers the ability to add Extensions written by anyone, I have even less reason to move. We'll show you how to find, install and manage these extensions, and hand-pick some of the best.

And if that all sounds too basic for you, what about trying your hand at making your own screensaver? It's actually not as hard as you think!

Of course there's lots more besides; it's worth familiarising yourself with smart folders (page 66), and there's loads of great creative advice too. Get started!

DID YOU KNOW?

We've always been disappointed with the quality of Bluetooth audio on a Mac compared to iOS, but a tweak can improve things; see **http://bit.ly/MacA2DP**.



BEFORE: The cut-off and sky aspect in this photo is ideal for a spot of manipulation.

AFTER: And there you have it – a mirrored ripple effect to change the whole scene!

Create rippled reflections

Use a displacement map to go one better than Photoshop's ripple effects

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Advanced

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Adobe Photoshop or Elements

The reflection in our photo creates a strange, surreal effect reminiscent of the old adventure game *Myst*. The geometry of reflections is straightforward and easy to simulate in *Photoshop*. What's crucial, though, is that the ripples in the water look realistic, and that's actually very difficult to achieve using conventional filters. Filters don't simulate the perspective effects you get in the real world – ripples that are further away need to look much smaller.

The other tricky part is finding suitable images in the first place. The bell tower in our photo was an ideal candidate for a surreal 'submerged city' idea. You could also try this technique out on boats, landscapes, even people... but it's very difficult to know what's going to work well until you try it out.

Fortunately, the 'flipping' process consists of just a handful of steps, which you can quickly carry out, and you'll soon see whether the finished image is going to work or not, before you go to the trouble of applying the 'ripple' effect. You'll also need to experiment with the position of the horizon, or the 'water level'.

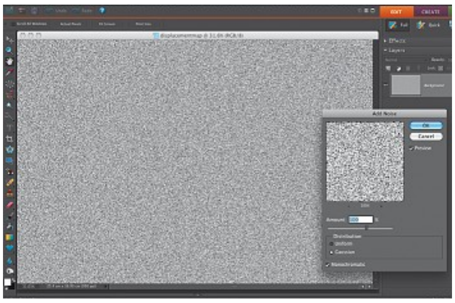
> *"The displacement map you create can be used on any image, automatically scaling to its dimensions"*

The first part of this walkthrough, though, is concerned with creating the 'displacement map' used to create the ripples. This involves the use of three different filters followed by a perspective adjustment, but the good news is that the displacement map you create can than be used on any image – it's scaled automatically to match an image's dimensions.

Displacement maps are greyscale images saved as *Photoshop* files; the dark areas 'push' (displace) the pixels in the image in one direction, and the light areas displace them in the other. This is what creates the ripple effect in our image. They can be used by certain filters to good effect, as our walkthrough shows.

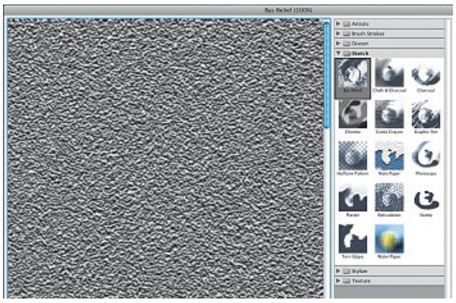
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Use a displacement map to create a ripple effect



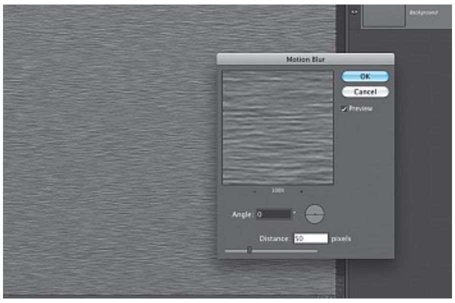
01 The Add Noise filter

This method is particularly effective for creating ripple effects. Start off by creating a new, blank *Photoshop* document (3,000x2,000 pixels will be more than enough), then select the **Add Noise** filter – use an **Amount** of 100% and the **Gaussian** and **Monochromatic** options.



02 Bas Relief

Now use the **Bas Relief** filter to 'clump' the noise into bigger and more distinct shapes (settings aren't crucial since the displacement map is going to be modified in subsequent steps). Higher **Detail** values will produce smaller 'ripples', lower values will produce larger 'ripples'.

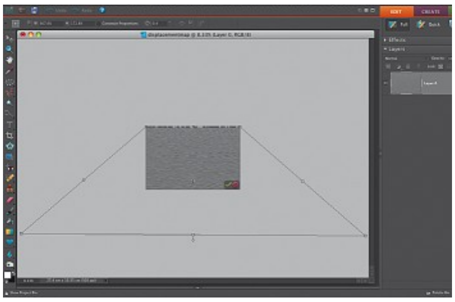


Angle: 0

Distance: 50 pixels

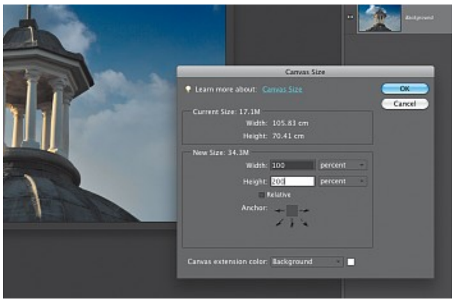
03 Motion Blur

Use the **Motion Blur** filter to extend these shapes horizontally. Make sure the **Angle** gadget is set to 0 degrees if you want your ripples to be horizontal (but feel free to experiment). The larger the **Distance** value, the further the 'ripples' are extended horizontally.



04 Add perspective

Double-click the layer in the **Layers** palette to promote it to a full layer, then use the ⌘+T shortcut to activate the **Transform** tool. Now ⌘-drag sideways on the bottom corners to create the perspective effect. Save the displacement map as a *Photoshop* (PSD) file.



Canvas Size

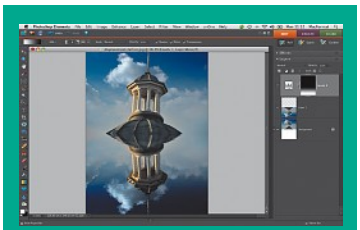
Current Size: 17.1M
Width: 105.83 cm
Height: 70.41 cm

New Size: 34.1M
Width: 100 percent
Height: 200 percent
☐ Relative
Anchor:

Canvas extension color: Background

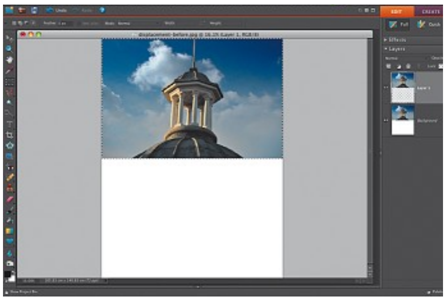
05 Enlarge canvas

Now open your photo. First to enlarge the canvas size to accommodate the reflection: set the **Height** measurement to percent, input a value of 200 and click top-centre on the **Anchor** gadget to make sure the canvas is extended downwards – you can crop off any surplus later.



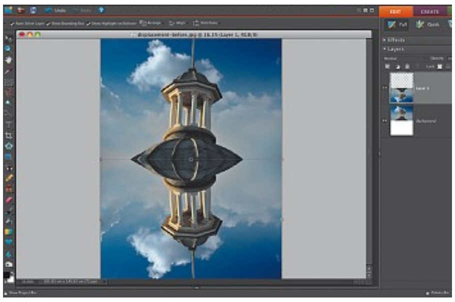
QUICK TIP

Real-world reflections are usually a little darker than the things they reflect because the reflective surface will absorb some of the light. We can simulate this darkening effect with a **Levels** adjustment layer and a layer mask with a gradient that blends in the effect towards the bottom of the picture.



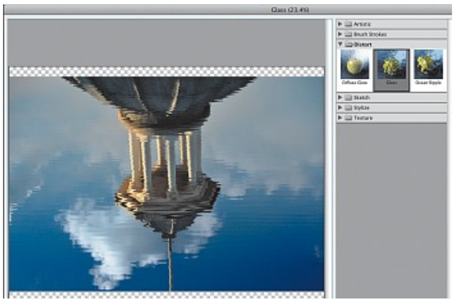
06 Make a selection

Use the **Rectangular Marquee** to select the area to reflect – choose the 'horizon' line for your reflection (you might need to experiment to find out what works best). Here, we can 'reflect' nearly the whole image. When you have a selection, hit ⌘+J to copy it to a layer.



07 Flip the reflection

Select Edit > Transform > Flip Vertical in *Photoshop* (Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Vertical in *Elements*), then drag the flipped layer down so the reflected detail at the top lines up with that in the original image in the layer below. ⇧-drag for vertical layer movement only.



08 Apply the Glass filter

Select the **Glass** filter. The 'ripple' effect is realistic, and we can preview the result as we adjust the controls. Click the pop-up alongside the **Texture** heading in the right-hand panel, load the displacement map ('texture') you've already saved, and experiment away! ●

Export photos from iPhoto

It's easy to get your pictures into iPhoto, but how do you get them out again?

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iPhoto '09, some photos

Using photos from your *iPhoto* library in other applications is fairly straightforward. Just drag them from the *iPhoto* window onto the app, into a document window or onto the Desktop. What you'll get is a copy of the file in its original format – unless, that is, it's a raw file, in which case *iPhoto* will produce a JPEG conversion.

To get at the raw file itself, you either need to right-click on its thumbnail and choose **Show File** to display its location in the *Finder* (which is a bit of a pain), or choose the **Export** option from the **File** menu and select **Original** from the **File Export** tab.

There are a number of other flexible file export options here too. Dragging thumbnails from the *iPhoto* window creates same-sized images with the same filenames, but in this dialog it's possible to specify different sizes, formats and file types. You could create a folder of images for a web page, for example. Need to send low-res samples to a customer, friend or colleague? This is the place to do it. And if you've used **Places** to add geotagging details to photos, exporting them via this dialog will embedd the location information in the metadata.

This **Export Photos** dialog has four tabs, though, and **File Export** is just the first. Using the others, you can generate web albums and movies from your photos, and while there's some crossover with *iPhoto*'s other web and slideshow tools, they're still worth a look as useful alternatives.

> *"The Web Page export tools are basic, but could be useful if you need to prepare an interactive gallery"*

The **Web Page** export tools are basic, but could be useful if you need to prepare an interactive gallery for anyone to use. The two remaining tabs, **QuickTime** and **Slideshow**, both create standalone movie files from sets of photos, but go about it in a different way. The **Slideshow** tab works alongside *iPhoto*'s own slideshow features. The **QuickTime** tab generates a much simpler slideshow in the *QuickTime* format, dispensing with fancy transitions and effects, and substituting a simple fade between photos.

The **Export Photos** dialog is useful for exporting batches of photos with custom filenames and settings, but its other export options, particularly the **QuickTime** export, could prove just as handy. Let's take a look.

Rod Lawton

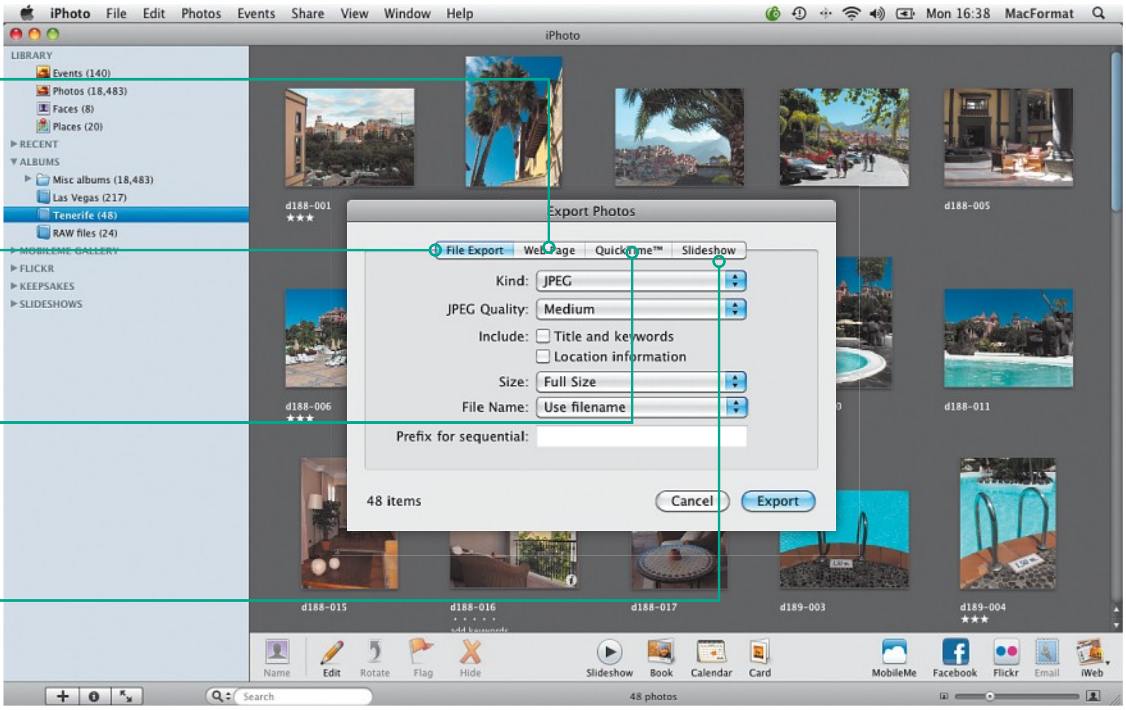
QUICK LOOK / The Export Photos dialog

Web Page
This creates basic web gallery pages, which are saved to your hard disk (steps 3-4).

File Export
Export single/multiple files in different sizes or formats (steps 1-2).

QuickTime
Create slideshows as standalone *QuickTime* movies (steps 5-6).

Slideshow
Create slideshows using *iPhoto* themes and effects (steps 7-8).


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Mon 16:38 MacFormat
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (140)
Photos (18,483)
Faces (8)
Places (20)
RECENT
ALBUMS
Misc albums (18,483)
Las Vegas (217)
Tenerife (48)
RAW files (24)
MOBILEME GALLERY
FLICKR
KEEPSAKES
SLIDESHOWS
d188-001
d188-005
d188-006
d188-011
d188-015
d188-016
d188-017
d189-003
d189-004
Name
Edit
Rotate
Flag
Hide
Slideshow
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Email
iWeb
Search
48 photos

Export Photos

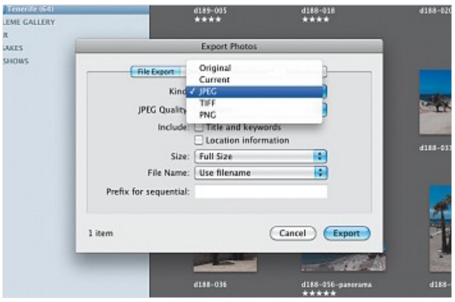
File Export | Web Page | QuickTime™ | Slideshow

Kind: JPEG
JPEG Quality: Medium
Include: ☐ Title and keywords
☐ Location information
Size: Full Size
File Name: Use filename
Prefix for sequential:

48 items

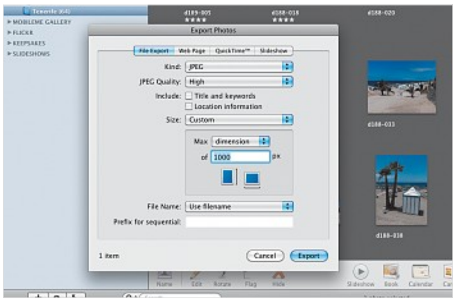
Cancel Export

HOW TO / Use the Export Photos dialog



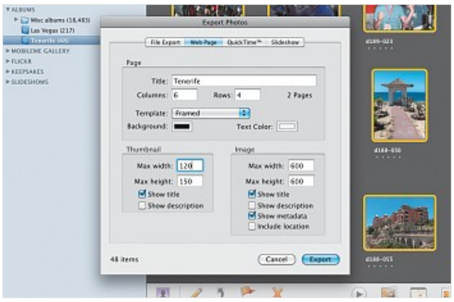
01 Export file format

When you use *iPhoto's* **File Export** tab, you can choose the file format, the quality (for JPEGs) and the file size – useful if you want to export pictures for web pages or email. If you want the original photo, you should choose **Original** from the **Kind** menu.



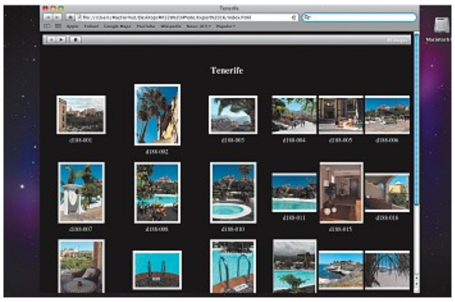
02 Export file size

If you need to change the size, choose from *iPhoto's* **Small**, **Medium** or **Large** settings, but you'll probably find it more useful to specify the dimensions using the **Custom** setting. This enables you to set the maximum size for width or height – 1,000 pixels, for example.



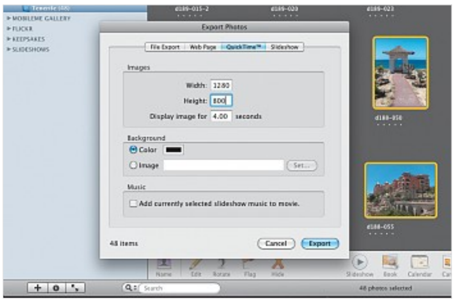
03 Web Page export

The **Web Page** tab generates a basic web album, exporting it as a set of HTML files to a disk folder, rather than uploading it to a remote server. Select the size of the thumbnails and the grid layout, and the size of the photos you see when you click on a thumbnail.



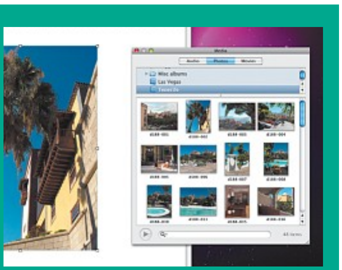
04 Exported web pages

For slick-looking web albums, send your photos to *iWeb*, or MobileMe galleries (if you have an account). The pages produced by this option are very basic. But it is a quick way to produce clickable galleries for your own use or distribution to others.



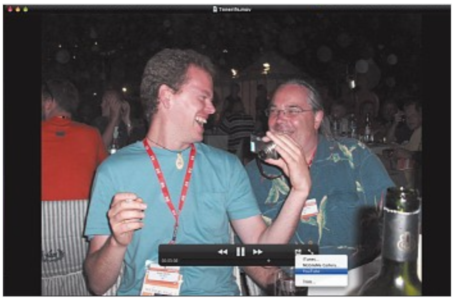
05 QuickTime export

The **QuickTime** export option generates a movie where each slide is displayed for a fixed period (the **Display image for:** box) using a simple 'fade' transition. You can set the size of the *QuickTime* window/movie using the **Width** and **Height** boxes; photos are scaled to fit.



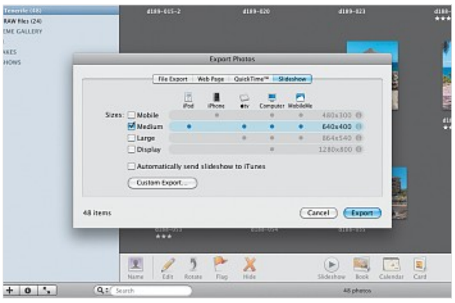
QUICK TIP

When in one of the *iWork* apps, you can get pictures from *iPhoto* using the **Media** panel – this displays the the photo library, including albums, and has a search box too. Note that *iPhoto* will convert raw files to JPEGs when you do it this way.



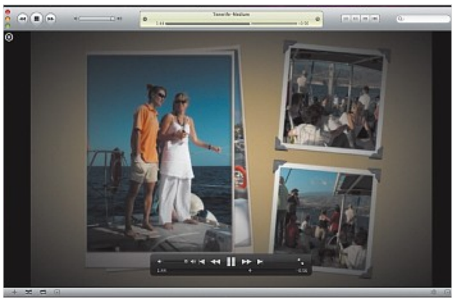
06 QuickTime playback

Doing this is a lot quicker than setting up a custom *iPhoto* slideshow, both in terms of setup time and how long it takes *iPhoto* to generate the movie. The movie that's produced can be controlled using simple play/pause and forward wind/rewind buttons.



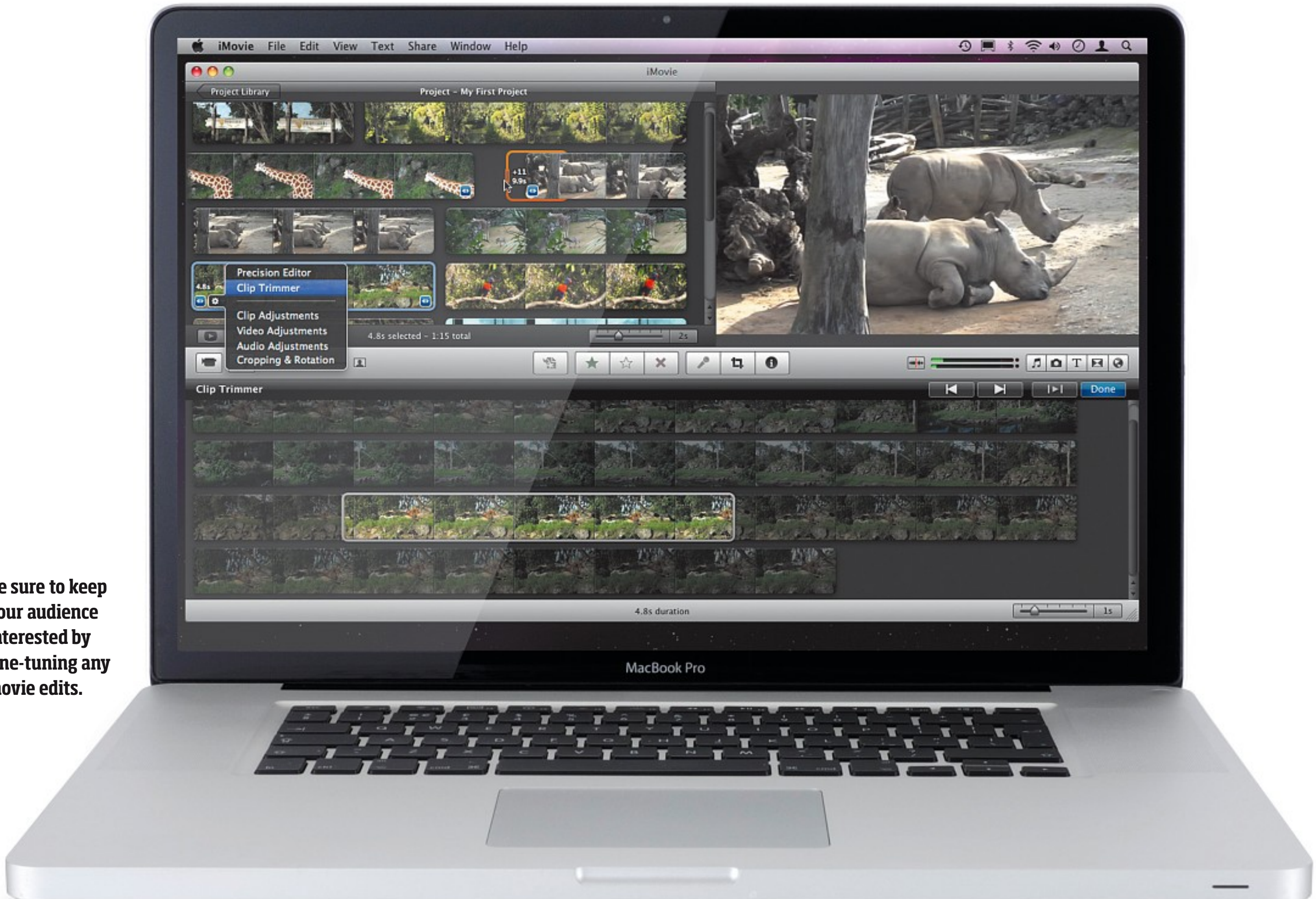
07 Slideshow export

If you select the **Slideshow** tab, *iPhoto* will create a more sophisticated movie based on the last-used **Slideshow** settings, including any themes, transitions and music. The **Custom Export** button opens up more options, but they quickly get complicated, so try out the presets.



08 Slideshow movies

The **Slideshow** option generates an MPEG4 movie rather than a *QuickTime* file; this will open in *iTunes* by default, but you can also open it with the *QuickTime Player*. The results are slick, thanks to *iPhoto's* slideshow features, but the movies take a while to generate. ●


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
iMovie
Project Library
Project – My First Project
Precision Editor
Clip Trimmer
Clip Adjustments
Video Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
Cropping & Rotation
4.8s selected – 1:15 total
Clip Trimmer
Done
4.8s duration
MacBook Pro

Be sure to keep your audience interested by fine-tuning any movie edits.

Fine-tune your video edits

With a few clips in your project, it's time to trim all the excess footage…

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iMovie '09 version 8.0.6 or later, a project in progress

Following on from the previous issue, you've successfully imported your footage into *iMovie* and have started building your film. You've dragged selected segments into the **Projects** section, reordered them, and even deleted some if you changed your mind.

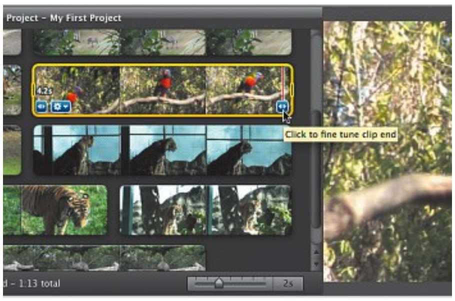
But editing is more than adding clips one after another. If you want to do this right, it can turn out to be a very time-consuming process; you have to watch your project over and over again, making sure the clips you've used go well together and tell the story as you intended. Most often, even if you've chosen the right clips, their length may not be exact and you may find yourself having to remove a few seconds or just a few frames to tighten your edit and make sure you keep your audience interested throughout. *iMovie '09* comes with a set of tools designed to do just that.

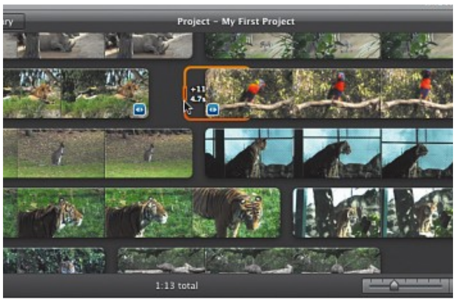
Using *iMovie's* default configuration, you have at your disposal two different methods to fine-tune your edit: you can perform changes with the help of the **Clip Trimmer** (which, when selected, temporarily replaces your **Event** section), or use a command from the menu bar (or its keyboard shortcut to make that process much easier and manageable) to cut a selected clip in two and reposition or delete the unwanted segment. There's also a fine-tuning feature, which must be enabled via the **Preferences** window: select the **Browser** section and make sure the **Show Fine Tuning Controls** box is ticked. With it, you can cut out or extend a clip's duration by a second either way, straight from within the **Projects** section.

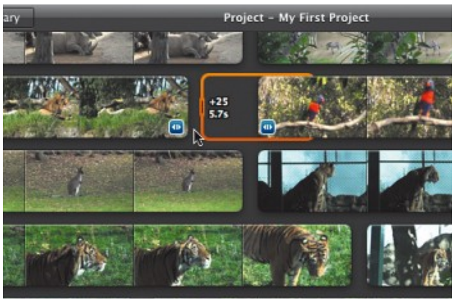
> *"Editing is more than adding clips one after another. If you want to do this right, it can be time-consuming"*

These three methods let you work with great precision; we'll cover them all in this tutorial. Start a new project or use an existing one, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Edit your video clips with precision


Project – My First Project
Click to fine tune clip end
1:13 total


Project – My First Project
1:13 total


Project – My First Project
+25
5.7s

01 Mouse over

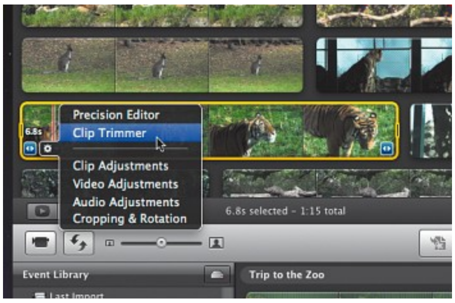
Let's start with some trimming: if the clip in your project is slightly too long, or ends just before a sentence was due to finish, move the cursor over it to reveal some overlay tools. A small double-triangle button appears lower left and lower right of the clip; click on either.

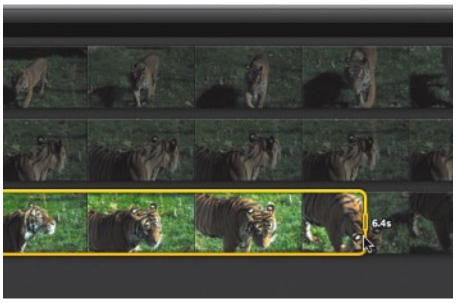
02 Extend or contract

This action pushes the neighbouring clip aside and the selected end of your clip now has an orange highlight around it with a small handle at its middle. Drag this inwards to trim your clip or outwards to extend it. You can only make modifications of up to one second.

03 Multiple times

Once you've extended or shortened your clip by one second, you can select those two double triangles and start the process all over again. But if you need to do this more than twice, there's a better method you should consider. Mouse over your clip once again.


Precision Editor
Clip Trimmer
Clip Adjustments
Video Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
Cropping & Rotation
6.8s
6.8s selected – 1:15 total
Event Library
Trip to the Zoo

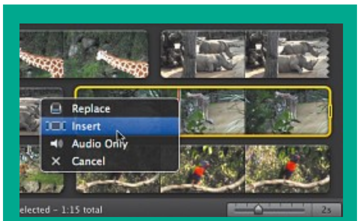


04 The Clip Trimmer

To the left is a cog wheel button. This is a menu, which is revealed by clicking on it. You'll be faced with many options, but you'll only need the second from the top, called **Clip Trimmer**. Click it and you'll notice that the bottom half of the interface is replaced.

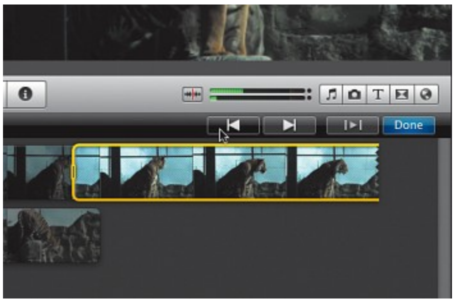
05 Trimming control

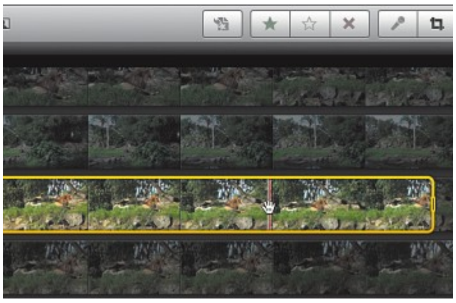
The **Clip Trimmer** will show you the entire clip from which the section used in your active project comes from. The dimmed area represents footage that you elected not to use. Alter your clip's duration by dragging the yellow handles on either side of the current selection.

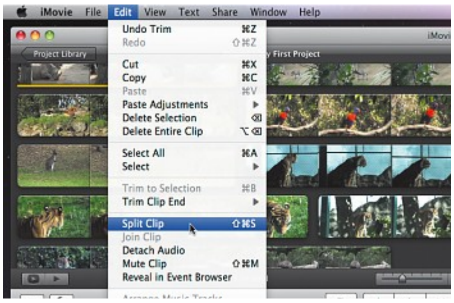

Replace
Insert
Audio Only
Cancel
elected – 1:15 total

QUICK TIP

If you want to insert a clip in the middle of an existing one, you don't need to split it first: drag it from the **Event** section into your **Project**. Keep dragging until you're happy with the place where it'll be inserted, then release your mouse. A menu will appear from which you should select **Insert**.






iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Undo Trim ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All ⌘A
Select
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Split Clip ⇧⌘S
Join Clip
Detach Audio
Mute Clip ⇧⌘M
Reveal in Event Browser
Project Library
First Project

06 Trimming buttons

Top-right of the **Clip Trimmer** section is a series of buttons. The one to the left of **Done** plays the selected part of your clip. The two to its left make you jump to the previous or next clip, so you don't have to select a clip in your project and reopen the clip trimmer.

07 Slip

Mouse over your clip's selected section to change your cursor to a hand. Drag it now to move the entire selection along. This preserves the exact duration in your project but selects a different part of the clip from the existing media (this is also known as 'slipping'). Click **Done**.

08 Split

To cut a clip in half (to either delete an unwanted section or move a segment to another part of your project) mouse over it. The red line shows which frame is displayed in the **Preview** section. Once you've found the right place to cut, press ⇧+⌘+S. ●

Get to grips with Ping

Master the new iTunes 10 music-based social networking feature

>> KEY INFO

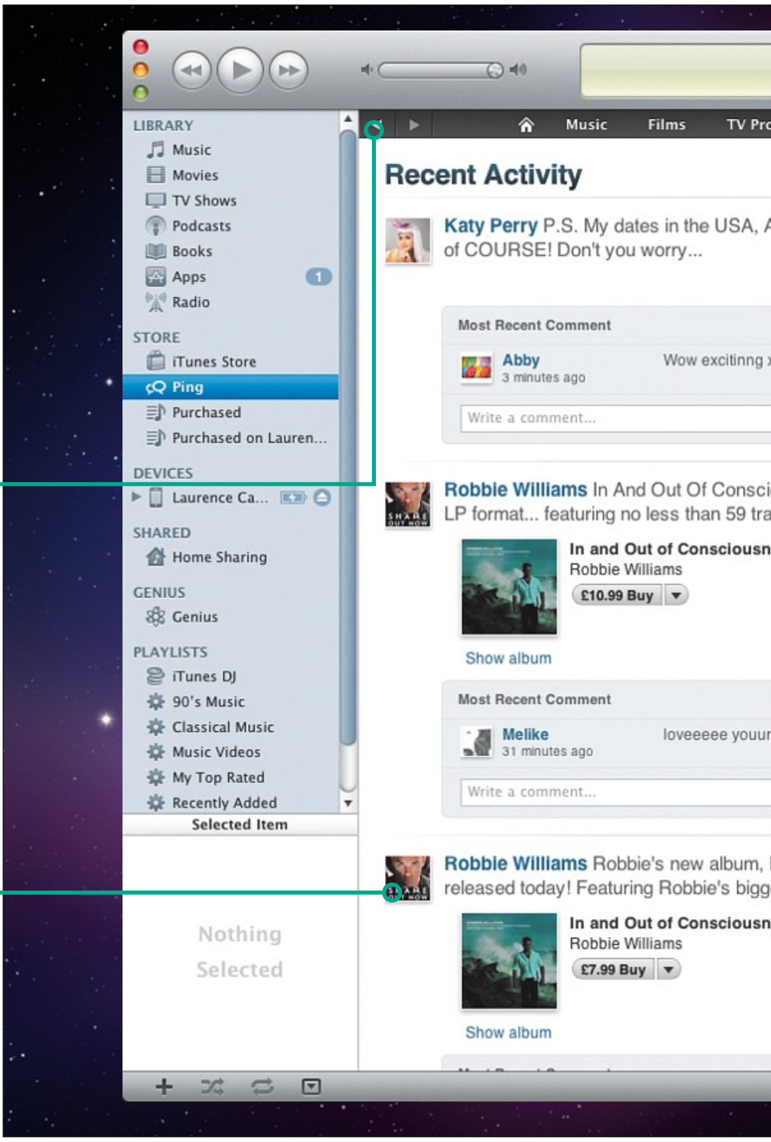
DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iTunes 10, Internet connection

Alongside the new iPods that Apple announced at its annual September event, *iTunes* reached version 10. As well as stripping the colour from the sidebar, it introduced Ping, a social networking feature that enables you to see what your friends and favourite artists are listening to. Apple added a couple of features in version 10.0.1, so make sure you're fully up to date.

Let's first sign up for Ping and have a look at its main screen. You'll see Ping just below the iTunes Store entry in the *iTunes* sidebar. Click **Turn On Ping**, and fill in your details to set up your profile – it's very quick. When you're done, you'll see the main Ping screen.


LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Books
Apps
1
Radio
STORE
iTunes Store
Ping
Purchased
Purchased on Lauren...
DEVICES
Laurence Ca...
SHARED
Home Sharing
GENIUS
Genius
PLAYLISTS
iTunes DJ
90's Music
Classical Music
Music Videos
My Top Rated
Recently Added
Selected Item
Nothing Selected
Music
Films
TV Pro
Recent Activity
Most Recent Comment
Write a comment...
Show album
£10.99 Buy
£7.99 Buy

Katy Perry P.S. My dates in the USA, A
of COURSE! Don't you worry...

Abby Wow exciting
3 minutes ago

Robbie Williams In And Out Of Consci
LP format... featuring no less than 59 tra

In and Out of Consciousn
Robbie Williams

Melike loveeeee youur
31 minutes ago

Robbie Williams Robbie's new album,
released today! Featuring Robbie's bigg

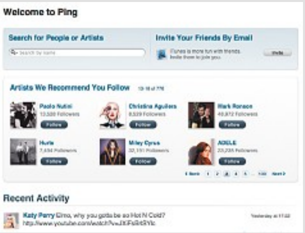
In and Out of Consciousn
Robbie Williams

Interface

The *iTunes* interface has been altered. Gone is the colour from the sidebar icons, and the close, minimise and maximise buttons now sit vertically next to the player controls. The additional button in the panel next to the search bar is the new **Album List** library view, which we'll look at over the page. **Add Playlist**, **Shuffle**, **Repeat** and **Artwork** are now just symbols on the bottom bar.

Toolbar

The back and forward arrows to navigate Ping work just like a web browser. On the right, there's a Ping menu, giving you quick access to your Recent Activity feed, profile, the people you follow or who are following you, and featured artists. Use the Ping button to jump back to the main screen.

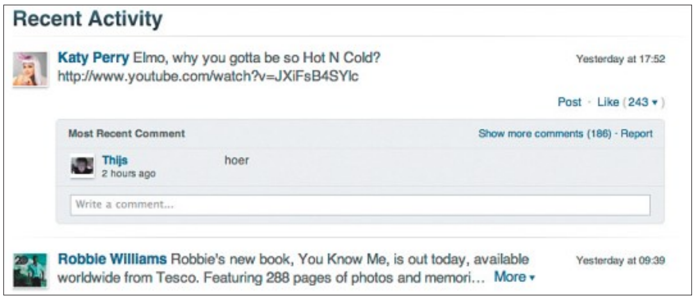

Welcome to Ping
Search for People or Artists
Invite Your Friends By Email
Artists We Recommend You Follow
Paolo Nutini
Christina Aguilera
Mark Ronson
Hurts
Miley Cyrus
ADELE
Follow
Recent Activity
Katy Perry Elmo, why you gotta be so Hot N Cold?

Artists we recommend

iTunes suggests artists it thinks you might like to follow, based on things you've bought previously. We got 772 recommendations, which could take some time to go through, but the big names came up in the first few pages. To find out more about a given musician or group, click their name to view their profile page, where you can also choose to follow them.

Recent Activity

This newsfeed is just like the one on Facebook. As soon as you choose to follow someone, their updates are added to the feed. Scroll down to read more. If you get to the end and still haven't had enough, click the the **More...** link below the last posting.


Recent Activity
Post · Like (243 ▾)
Most Recent Comment
Show more comments (186) · Report
Write a comment...
More ▾

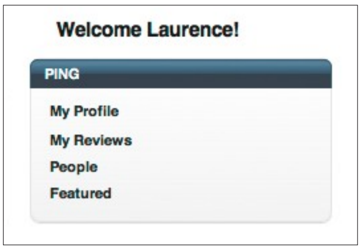
Katy Perry Elmo, why you gotta be so Hot N Cold? Yesterday at 17:52
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXiFsB4SYlc

Thijs hoer
2 hours ago

Robbie Williams Robbie's new book, You Know Me, is out today, available worldwide from Tesco. Featuring 288 pages of photos and memori... Yesterday at 09:39

Follow

You can follow another person or artist just like you would on Twitter or Facebook. Once you follow them, their updates will appear in Recent Activity, which is akin to your Facebook newsfeed or Twitter home page. Some people may need to approve you first.

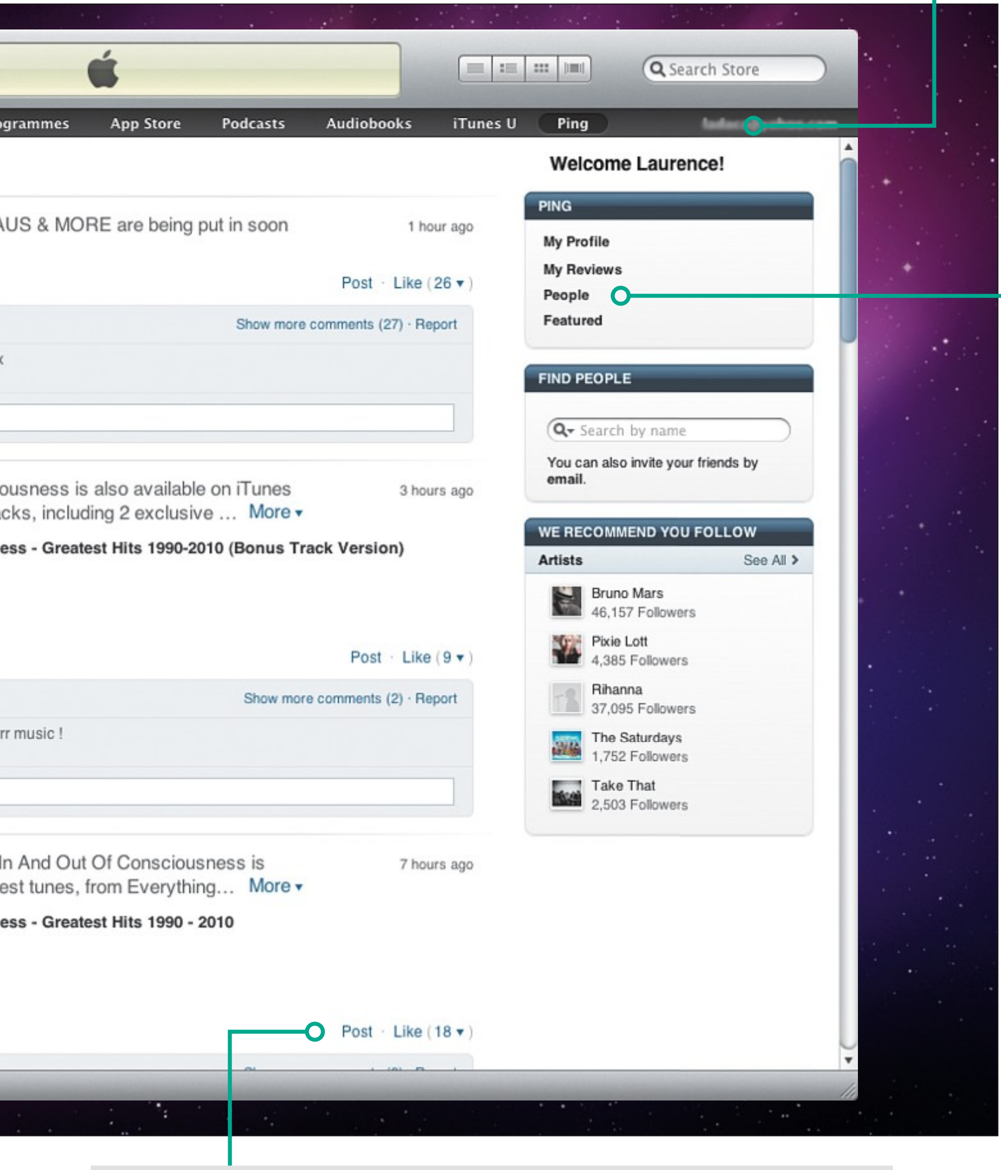

Welcome Laurence!
PING
My Profile
My Reviews
People
Featured

Ping links

This list of links helps you navigate various parts of Ping. It gives you quick access to your profile, any reviews you've written, the people you follow, and new, featured artists. Over the page, we'll look at your profile and reviews in more detail.

Account

Click here to sign in; once you've done so, it displays the email address you're logged in with. Use your existing iTunes Store account. When you click and hold, a menu drops down, giving you quick access to your account details, your wish list and the options to redeem gift vouchers or sign out.


Search Store
grammes
App Store
Podcasts
Audiobooks
iTunes U
Ping
Welcome Laurence!
PING
My Profile
My Reviews
People
Featured
FIND PEOPLE
Search by name
WE RECOMMEND YOU FOLLOW
Artists
See All
Bruno Mars
46,157 Followers
Pixie Lott
4,385 Followers
Rihanna
37,095 Followers
The Saturdays
1,752 Followers
Take That
2,503 Followers
1 hour ago
Post · Like (26 ▾)
Show more comments (27) · Report
3 hours ago
More ▾
Post · Like (9 ▾)
Show more comments (2) · Report
7 hours ago
More ▾
Post · Like (18 ▾)

AUS & MORE are being put in soon

You can also invite your friends by email.

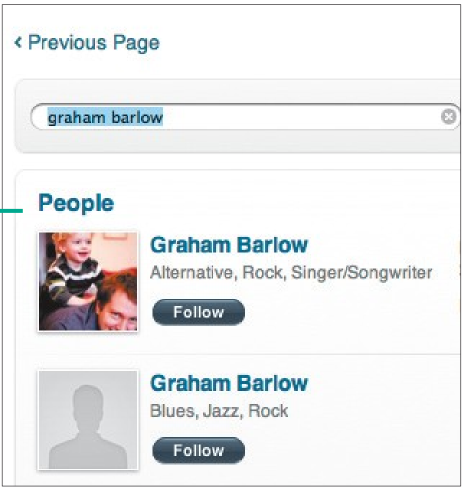
ousness is also available on iTunes
cks, including 2 exclusive …

ess - Greatest Hits 1990-2010 (Bonus Track Version)

rr music !

In And Out Of Consciousness is
est tunes, from Everything…

ess - Greatest Hits 1990 - 2010

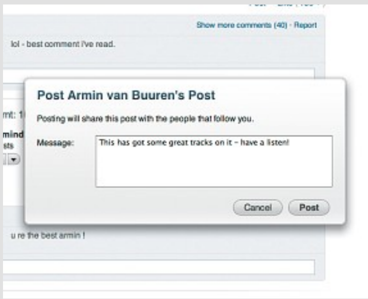

‹ Previous Page
graham barlow
People
Graham Barlow
Alternative, Rock, Singer/Songwriter
Follow
Graham Barlow
Blues, Jazz, Rock
Follow

Find more people

To find a particular artist, or one of your friends or colleagues, type their name in the search bar and press ↵. You can filter the results to show only Artists, or just the regular People. If you can't find who you're looking for, why not invite them to sign up to Ping? Just click Invite and type in their email address and a message.

Post, Like or comment

Seen something you like? Why not share it with your followers. Click **Post** to share an entry – you can even add a message to the posting. Alternatively, you can click the **Like** button or write a comment below it. The feed only displays the latest comment by default – click **Show more comments** to read them all in a handy scrolling pane.


Show more comments (40) · Report
Cancel
Post

lol - best comment i've read.

Post Armin van Buuren's Post

Posting will share this post with the people that follow you.

Message: This has got some great tracks on it – have a listen!

u re the best armin !

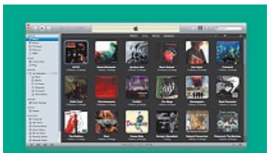
»PARENTAL CONTROLS

If your children use *iTunes* and you're worried about them finding unsuitable content, you can disable certain features to keep them safe. Go into iTunes > Preferences and click the **Parental** button. Here, you can disable the **iTunes Store** (which turns Ping off too), **Podcasts**, **Radio** or **Shared Libraries**. If you want to be slightly less draconian, you can simply restrict content based on its rating. Pick your country from the **Ratings for:** drop-down, then use the options below to hide material. Remember to click the padlock to prevent anyone from altering your settings.

»

… now do more with Ping!

Delve deeper into the new features included in iTunes 10

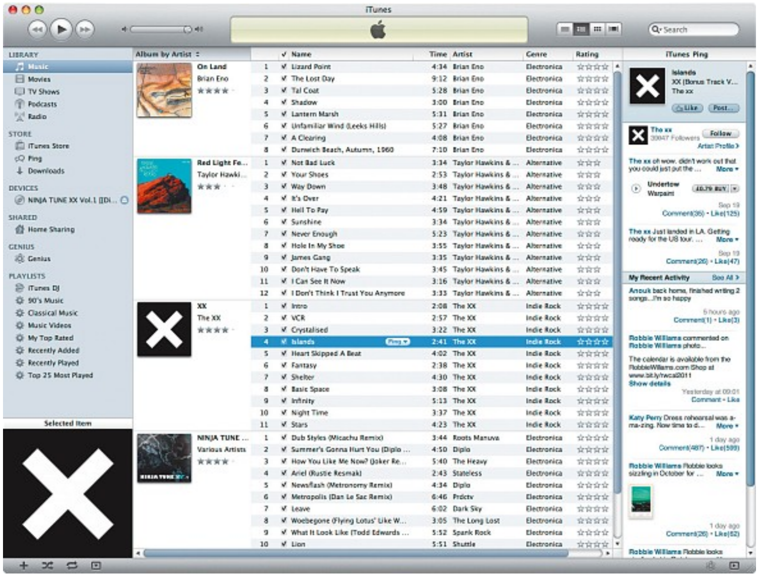


QUICK TIP

iTunes enables you to change the background colour of the **Grid** view from the usual light grey to a much darker tone. To alter it, go to iTunes > Preferences, and click the **General** button at the top. Then set the **Grid View** drop-down to **Dark** and click **OK**.

You can access your Ping profile by clicking My Profile in the Ping menu. It contains the details you filled in when you set up your account. On the right, you'll see a line of thumbnails of artists you like, which are based on purchases you've made from the iTunes Store in the past. Below all this is your Recent Activity, where you'll see any comments you've made, artists you've started following and more. A list of the people you follow is on the right.

Edit Profile, in the pane on the right, enables you to change your picture, bio and location. Under Music I Like, you can determine what appears in that section. Lastly, Privacy Settings is were you dictate if others are allowed to follow you, and if they require your approval first.



The Ping sidebar gives you access to others' activity and buttons to Like or Post music with.

Instant access

The new Ping sidebar in your music library shows you a mini feed of the recent activity of the people and acts you're following, and if you select a song by an artist who has a Ping profile, you'll see their latest activity at the top. You can also Like or Post the song that's currently selected in your library. You'll notice a little Ping drop-down next to the song you've got selected. This also offers Like and Post options, as well as direct links to that artist's profile and album pages on the iTunes Store.

Writing reviews

Social networking is all about interaction and leaving feedback, so what better way to do this than by writing a review of someone's music? Reviewing music on the iTunes Store is nothing new, but Ping brings all your reviews together in your profile, so others can browse them easily.

To write a review, browse to the album's track listing and scroll to the bottom. There, you can leave your thoughts on it. Now head back to your profile and click My Reviews, and your feedback will appear there. Others who browse your reviews get direct links to buy the music you critiqued.

Bring back the colour

If you, like us, miss the coloured icons in the sidebar or believe firmly that the close, minimise and maximise buttons should appear horizontally rather than vertically, there's good news – changing them back is relatively straightforward. First off, make sure you've quit *iTunes*, then open up *Terminal* from your Applications/Utilities folder. Type the following and press ↩:

```
defaults write com.apple.iTunes full-window -1
```

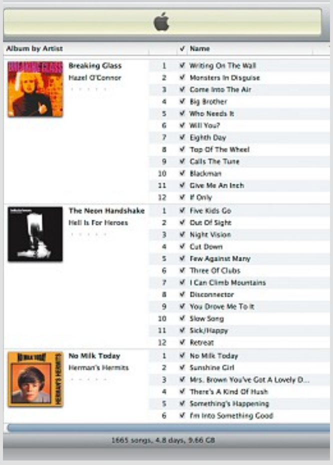
Terminal won't acknowledge what you've done, but type exit and quit *Terminal*. You're now ready to reopen *iTunes* and breathe a sigh of relief – the buttons will sit horizontally again.

Next up, let's give the sidebar back its colour. This not only looks better, but makes navigating them easier, because you'll probably have come to

HOW TO / Use the new Album List view

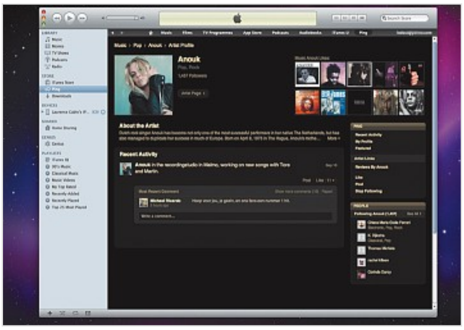
iTunes 10 adds a new way to browse your music library. As well as the usual **List**, **Grid** and **Cover Flow** modes, there's now an **Album List** view. It works like the standard **List** view, but incorporates album artwork into the list. It does this by grouping whole albums together, with the cover art on the left-hand side. Browsing in this way gives you the best of both the **List** and **Grid** views, in that you can visually search for an album you're after, before picking out a track without needing to switch screens.

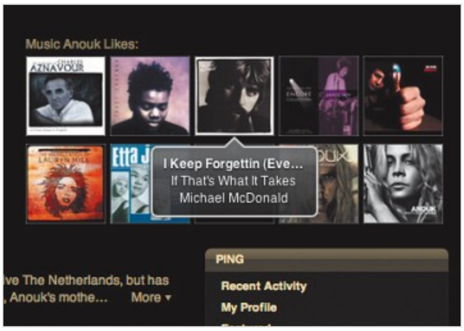
You can also rate the album quickly by clicking the dots next to the cover to give it a star rating. This applies that rating to all its tracks. In **Album List** view, you can still sort your library by track name, or any of the other column headings, simply by clicking them. But if you try this, you'll see the majority of your album artwork disappear, because it only displays if there are several tracks to show alongside it. You can force the artwork to appear, by going to View > Always Show Artwork, but if you then sort your library by track name, most tracks will take up between three and seven lines, due to the image alongside them. So as the name suggests, **Album List** view is really only for browsing grouped records.

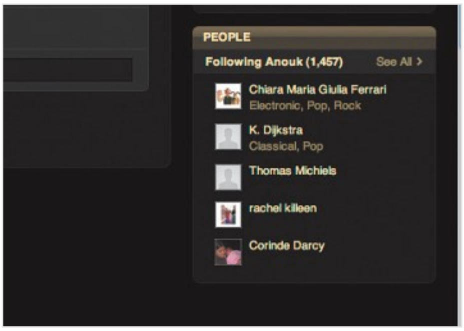


Album List view offers you yet another way to browse your iTunes library.

HOW TO / Explore people's profiles




Music Anouk Likes:
I Keep Forgettin (Eve...
If That's What It Takes
Michael McDonald
ve The Netherlands, but has
, Anouk's mothe... More
PING
Recent Activity
My Profile


PEOPLE
Following Anouk (1,457)
See All >
Chiara Maria Giulia Ferrari
Electronic, Pop, Rock
K. Dijkstra
Classical, Pop
Thomas Michiels
rachel killeen
Corinde Darcy

01 Public profile

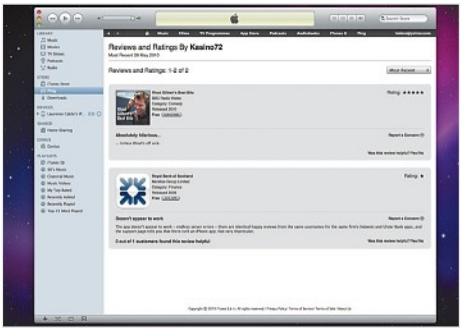
Just like you, artists on the Ping network have their own public profiles, which can contain a photo, a short bio, their recent activity and the music they like. If you're not already following them, there's a button just below their name – click on it to start doing so.

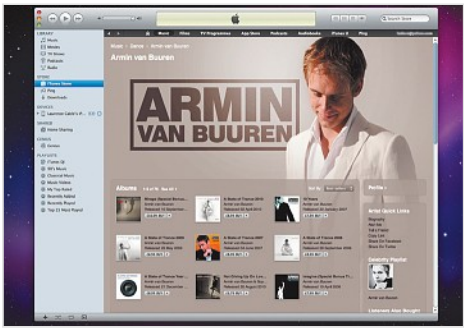
02 Music they like

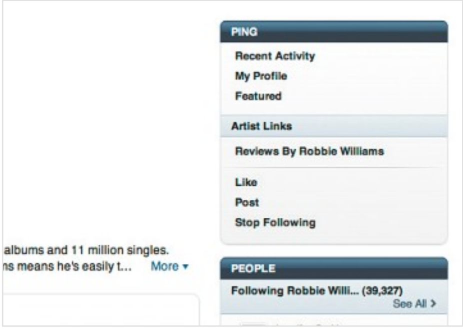
Hover your mouse over one of the album thumbnails that the artist likes to find out the name of the song, artist and album. Click again for an iTunes Store window, where you can preview the record in question and buy tracks. Use the drop-down to **Like** the album.

03 Followers

In the bottom-right corner, you can see who's following that artist. This is a good way of finding other people who have similar music tastes to you, and then looking at who else they follow to discover new artists. Click someone's name to view their profile and **Follow** them.


Reviews and Ratings By Keaino72


ARMIN VAN BUUREN


PING
Recent Activity
My Profile
Featured
Artist Links
Reviews By Robbie Williams
Like
Post
Stop Following
albums and 11 million singles.
s means he's easily t... More
PEOPLE
Following Robbie Willi... (39,327)
See All >

04 Side box

If an artist has written any reviews of others' music, you can read these by clicking **Reviews By Artist** on the right-hand side. Below this are links to **Like** the artist, or post their profile to your followers – a great way to spread the word about new bands you've discovered.

05 Buy their music

If you'd like to listen to the artist's own music, click the **Artist Page** button below their name. This takes you to their regular iTunes Store page, where you have the list of albums, which you can explore, preview and buy. To go back to their profile, click **Profile** on the right.

06 Stop following

Musical tastes vary over time, so you might find you no longer wish to follow a given artist. You can do so by clicking **Stop Following**, which you'll find under **Artist Links** on the right-hand side of their profile. Their updates will be removed from your Recent Activity feed. ●

associate certain colours with certain entries – the Store is green, Home Sharing is orange and your Music library is blue. Without the colour, it'll take you longer to read each entry before you click it.

This bit's a little more complicated, but just follow our steps and it'll work fine, provided **Source Text** is set to **Small** in the **Preferences**.

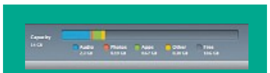
First, quit *iTunes*, open up *Safari* and go to **http://bit.ly/itunes10colour**. Click the **Download** button and wait for the file to come in. While it's downloading, find *iTunes* in your **Applications** folder, right-click it and select **Show Package Contents**. Expand the **Contents** folder, then the **Resources** one and scroll down to a file called **iTunes.rsrc**. Make a copy of this elsewhere on your hard drive, just in case anything goes wrong. Then find the file you've just downloaded and copy it to the **Resources** folder. Type in your administrator password and choose to replace the file that's already there. Now reopen *iTunes* to be greeted by a glorious technicolour sidebar.

> *"Ping isn't the only new feature; there's AirPlay wireless music and integration with the new Apple TV"*

Wait, there's more

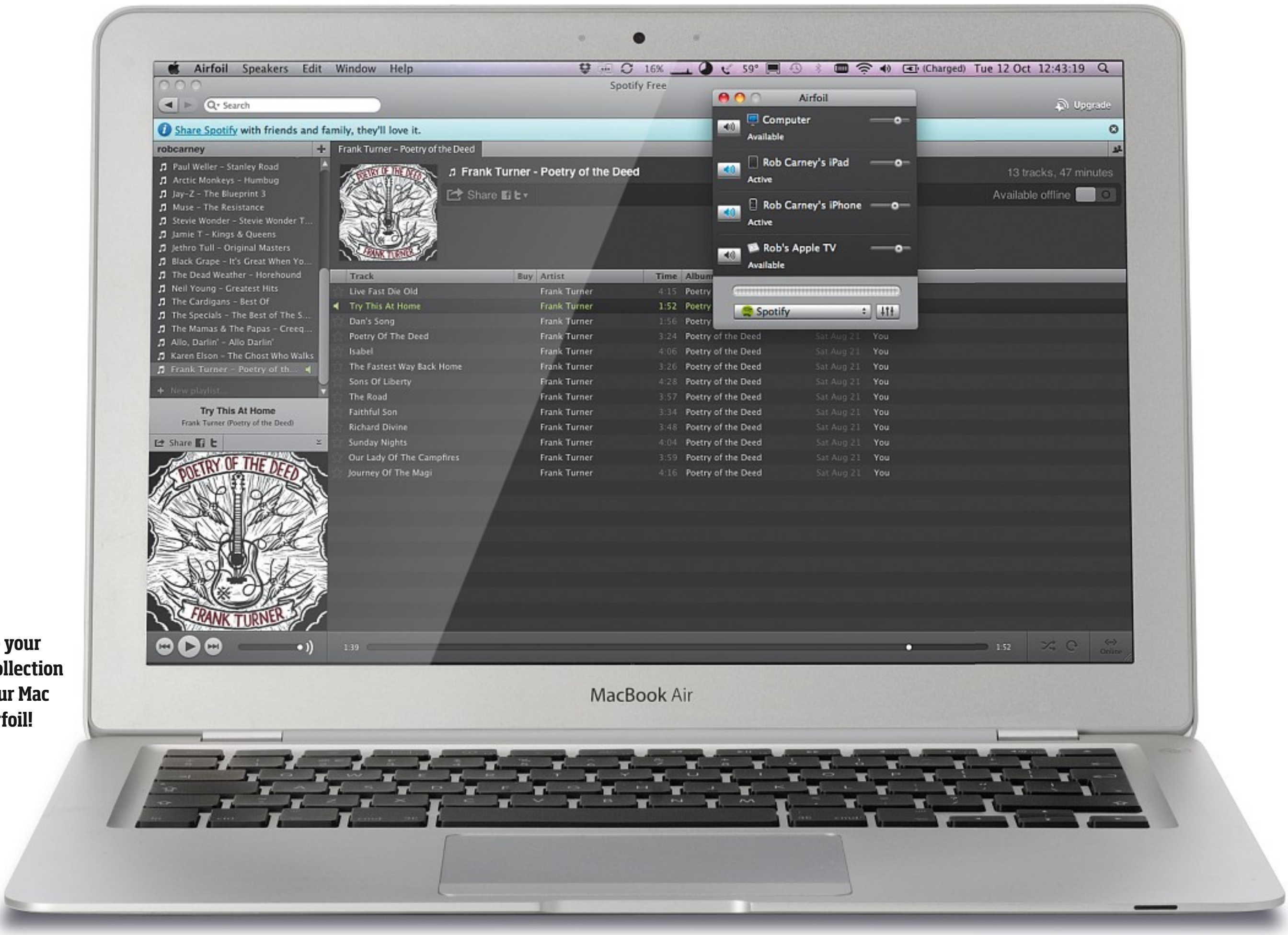
Ping wasn't the only new feature added to *iTunes 10*; there's AirPlay wireless music and integration with the new Apple TV. AirPlay is designed to enable you to listen to your music anywhere in your house, wirelessly. You can pair speakers and docks to your Mac and then listen to your music in more than one room. You'll even be able to see song details and album artwork on supported devices.

Laurence Cable



QUICK TIP

When you connect your iPod, iPhone or iPad to your Mac, the capacity bar across the bottom of the *iTunes* window shows you how full it is. This now updates in real time, so you'll always know how much free space you have on a device.


Airfoil
Speakers
Edit
Window
Help
Tue 12 Oct 12:43:19
Spotify Free
Search
Upgrade
Share Spotify with friends and family, they'll love it.
robcarney
Paul Weller – Stanley Road
Arctic Monkeys – Humbug
Jay-Z – The Blueprint 3
Muse – The Resistance
Stevie Wonder – Stevie Wonder T...
Jamie T – Kings & Queens
Jethro Tull – Original Masters
Black Grape – It's Great When Yo...
The Dead Weather – Horehound
Neil Young – Greatest Hits
The Cardigans – Best Of
The Specials – The Best of The S...
The Mamas & The Papas – Creeq...
Allo, Darlin' – Allo Darlin'
Karen Elson – The Ghost Who Walks
Frank Turner – Poetry of th...
New playlist...
Try This At Home
Frank Turner (Poetry of the Deed)
Share
Frank Turner – Poetry of the Deed
Frank Turner - Poetry of the Deed
Share
13 tracks, 47 minutes
Available offline
Airfoil
Computer
Available
Rob Carney's iPad
Active
Rob Carney's iPhone
Active
Rob's Apple TV
Available
Spotify
1:39
1:52
MacBook Air

Track	Buy	Artist	Time	Album		
Live Fast Die Old		Frank Turner	4:15	Poetry		
Try This At Home		Frank Turner	1:52	Poetry		
Dan's Song		Frank Turner	1:56	Poetry		
Poetry Of The Deed		Frank Turner	3:24	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Isabel		Frank Turner	4:06	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
The Fastest Way Back Home		Frank Turner	3:26	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Sons Of Liberty		Frank Turner	4:28	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
The Road		Frank Turner	3:57	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Faithful Son		Frank Turner	3:34	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Richard Divine		Frank Turner	3:48	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Sunday Nights		Frank Turner	4:04	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Our Lady Of The Campfires		Frank Turner	3:59	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You
Journey Of The Magi		Frank Turner	4:16	Poetry of the Deed	Sat Aug 21	You

Liberate your music collection from your Mac with Airfoil!

Stream music from your Mac

Use Airfoil to stream your Mac's audio to the device of your choosing

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Airfoil, Spotify (for our example) or any other app that plays audio

>> ON THE DISC

Trials of the *Airfoil* apps used here.

The premise of *Airfoil* is simple: stream audio from your Mac to any device (iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, Airport Express and Apple TV) or computer in your house on your Wi-Fi network. For $25 (£16), and with the free *Airfoil Speakers* app for Mac, PC, Windows and iOS, it's a versatile tool for streaming synced audio all around the home.

To get started, go to **www.rogueamoeba.com/airfoil/mac** and download the app. In the zip file that's downloaded, you'll find both the *Airfoil* app and the *Airfoil Speakers* app. You can copy the *Airfoil Speakers* app to other Macs on your network, as it's free (or you can download it separately for your OS from **www.rogueamoeba.com/airfoil/speakers.php**). If you don't get an *Airfoil* licence, it adds noise to audio streams over 10 minutes. To buy a licence, simply open the main *Airfoil* app, go to Airfoil > License and follow the instructions.

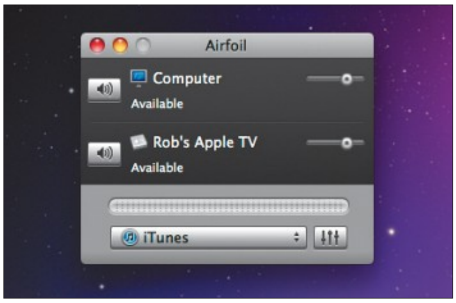
So why would you stream audio from your Mac to other devices? Consider online streaming music services such as Spotify, for example. You can, using *Airfoil*, stream your Spotify playlists, favourite artists and albums to your iPhone or iPad, meaning as long as you're in your Wi-Fi network range, you can have a raft of free music on your mobile device. Similarly, you could stream Spotify to your Apple TV or Airport Express, making listening to streaming music on your lounge speaker system a cinch.

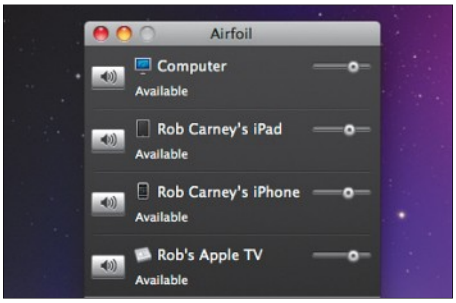
> *"So why would you stream audio from your Mac to other devices? Consider Spotify, for example..."*

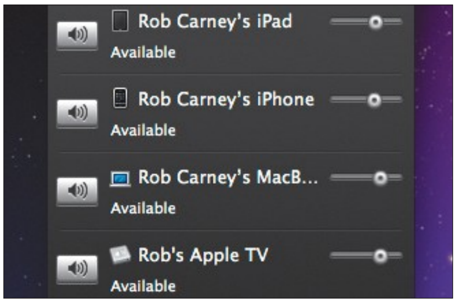
In fact, you can stream audio from any application to your devices, from BBC iPlayer in *Safari* or *Firefox*, to any movie or audio file in *QuickTime*. A simple, easy-to-use interface makes it possible to get started in no time at all, and streaming to anything – be it an iOS device or OS X, Windows or Linux machine – is quick and painless. Let's get started...

Rob Carney

HOW TO / Use Airfoil to stream audio from your Mac


Airfoil
Computer
Available
Rob's Apple TV
Available
iTunes


Airfoil
Computer
Available
Rob Carney's iPad
Available
Rob Carney's iPhone
Available
Rob's Apple TV
Available


Rob Carney's iPad
Available
Rob Carney's iPhone
Available
Rob Carney's MacB...
Available
Rob's Apple TV
Available

01 Start up

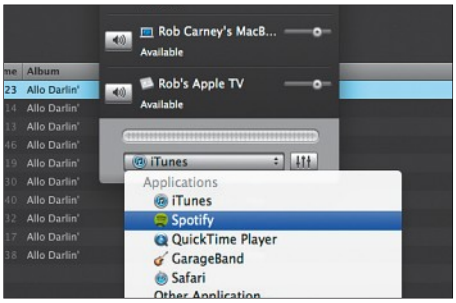
Open up *Airfoil*. In the window that appears, you'll see a list of all the devices that you can stream to. By default, just your computer will show up, but if you have an Apple TV or Airport Express on your local network, these will also appear on the list.

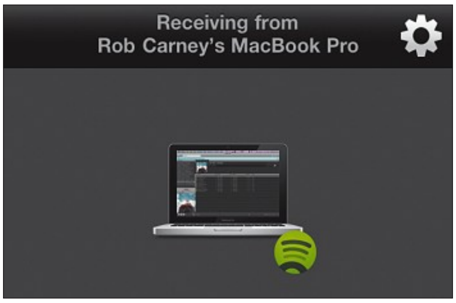
02 Add your iOS devices

Now, head to the App Store on your iPhone and/or iPad and download the free *Airfoil Speakers* app. Once these are installed, launch the app on your iPhone and/or iPad. Back on your Mac, you'll see the iPhone and/or iPad in the devices list.

03 Add your other Macs

If you want to use your other Macs (or PC or Linux box) around the house as a speaker, you'll need to install the *Airfoil Speakers* app on the computer you want to act as a speaker. Then open *Airfoil Speakers* – the computer will appear in your devices list on your main Mac.


Rob Carney's MacB...
Available
Rob's Apple TV
Available
Album
Allo Darlin'
iTunes
Applications
iTunes
Spotify
QuickTime Player
GarageBand
Safari
Other Application

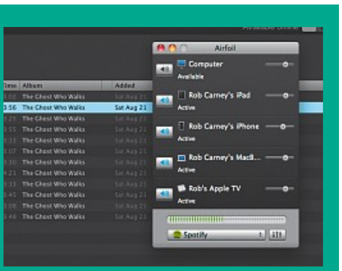

Receiving from
Rob Carney's MacBook Pro

04 Stream audio from an app

Let's test it out. Open up *Spotify* on your Mac, choose an artist or album and hit play. To make the audio play through devices in your list, change the drop-down at the bottom of the **Devices** list to **Spotify**. If it's not in the list, click **Other Application** and browse for it.

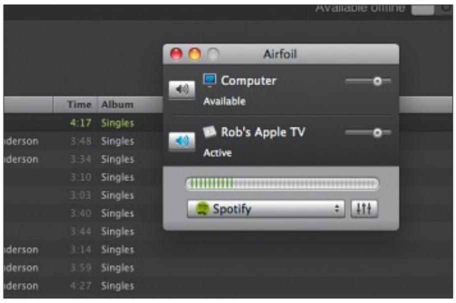
05 Select your speaker

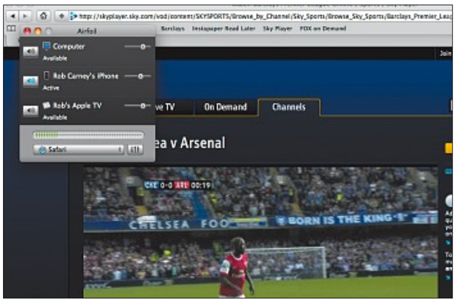
Your audio is still coming out of your Mac's speakers though. To change this, click on the small speaker icon next to your iPhone or iPad in the **Devices** list on your Mac (or use the **Speakers** menu). Your audio will start playing through the device you've just chosen.

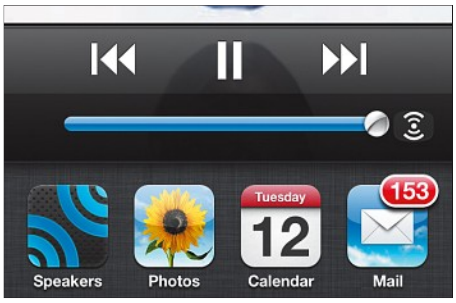


QUICK TIP

You can stream audio to multiple devices at once. Just hit the speaker icon next to the device. If the icon is blue then audio is being transmitted to that device. Have an iPod, an iPad and your laptop all playing the audio from your Mac – all in sync!


Airfoil
Computer
Available
Rob's Apple TV
Active
Spotify
Time
Album
Singles


Airfoil
Computer
Rob Carney's iPhone
Rob's Apple TV
Safari
On Demand
Channels
a v Arsenal


Speakers
Photos
Tuesday
12
Calendar
153
Mail

06 Apple TV integration

Another great use for *Airfoil* is streaming audio from *Spotify* to your Apple TV. Select your Apple TV in the same way as you did for the iPhone in Step 5 and you can now stream your *Spotify* playlists from your Mac (maybe upstairs) to your TV in your lounge.

07 Other applications

Other uses for *Airfoil* include being able to stream audio from *Safari* (or any other browser). Stream football commentary from Sky Player when doing household chores, or listen to any other stream you can imagine – all on your iPhone or iPad, and for no extra cost.

08 iTunes and Remote

Airfoil can also be used with *iTunes*. If you don't have all of your music on your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad, stream the songs using the same method as in Steps 4 and 5. On devices running iOS 4, you can even combine *Airfoil Speakers* with the *Apple Remote* app! ●

Add features to Safari

We've picked ten of the best extensions for your web browsing enjoyment

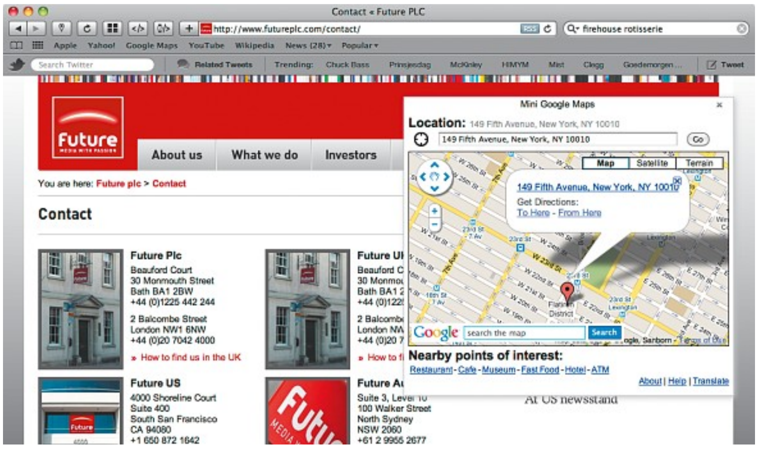
» QUICK TIP

If you're a developer or ever have to work with web code in any way, this handy little extension is one you should add to your arsenal. Rather than viewing a page's code in *Safari*'s minimalist **Source** window, **BetterSource** colour-codes HTML and adds line numbers. It opens the code in a new tab, however it doesn't support JavaScript.

Since they first appeared on the scene, *Safari* extensions have been springing up everywhere. While the list of available items isn't anywhere near as long as the App Store's, it can still be tricky deciding which are the best ones. So we've done the hard work for you – read on to discover our 10 favourites.

You'll need *Safari 5.0.1* or later to use extensions. If you haven't got it, run *Software Update*, then fire up the latest version and go to Safari > Safari Extensions Gallery. To install any listed here, just locate it then click the **Install** button below its name. But if you find extensions elsewhere on the web, download them, double-click the file and simply click **Install** in the dialog that appears. They'll install instantly, but some may require you to quit and relaunch *Safari* to activate them. Most have settings you can tweak by going to Safari > Preferences > Extensions.

One word of caution: a developer who was up to no good could potentially put malicious code into an extension, so only download them from reputable sources. Any that appear on Apple's Safari Extensions Gallery will be fine. For more see http://bit.ly/macsafariextensions.


Contact « Future PLC
http://www.futureplc.com/contact/
firehouse rotisserie
Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (28) Popular
Search Twitter
Related Tweets
Trending: Chuck Bass Prinsjesdag McKinley HIMYM Mist Clegg Goedemorgen
Tweet
Future
About us
What we do
Investors
You are here: Future plc > Contact
Contact
Future Plc
Beauford Court
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW
+44 (0)1225 442 244
2 Balcombe Street
London NW1 6NW
+44 (0)20 7042 4000
» How to find us in the UK
Future US
4000 Shoreline Court
Suite 400
South San Francisco
CA 94080
+1 650 872 1642
Future Australia
Suite 3, Level 10
100 Walker Street
North Sydney
NSW 2060
+61 2 9955 2677
Mini Google Maps
Location: 149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010
149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Go
Map
Satellite
Terrain
149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Get Directions:
To Here - From Here
Google
search the map
Search
Nearby points of interest:
Restaurant - Cafe - Museum - Fast Food - Hotel - ATM
About | Help | Translate
At US newsstand

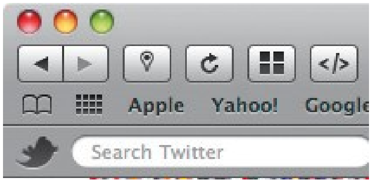
Mini Google Maps enables you to find an address without leaving the page you're viewing.

Mini Google Maps

Google Maps (maps.google.com) is fantastic. We constantly find ourselves opening it up when we're browsing – whether it's to find out where a local news story happened, or to plan our route to a restaurant. Its great, but having to load it in a new tab is a pain, especially if you're trying to remember an unfamiliar postcode or road name. This extension adds a button to your toolbar, which you click to open a map and search bar. You can drag the window around the site you're viewing so that it doesn't obscure the address.

Reload button

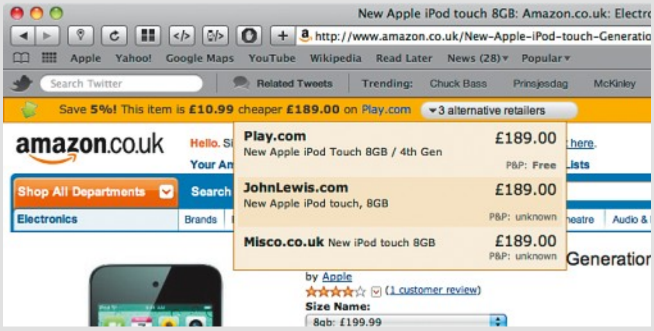
This is one for the nostalgists. Early versions of *Safari* had a **Reload** button at the left-hand end of the toolbar alongside the **Back** and **Forward** ones. It was removed in *Safari 4*, to be replaced by a little icon at the end of the address bar. This extension puts the **Reload** button back where you like it. Because it doesn't double as a **Stop Loading** button, however, it leaves the icon at the end of the address bar in place, should you need it.


Apple
Yahoo!
Google
Search Twitter

Make Reload a proper toolbar button again with the simple Reload button extension.

» HOW TO / Get the best shopping deal

It's well-known that shopping online is generally cheaper than on the high street, but how can you be sure you're getting the best price? Rather than you searching through a bunch of different websites, have the **InvisibleHand** Extension do the work for you. As the name suggests, you'll forget it's there until you're browsing a product page. At this point, it'll flash up a yellow bar with a raft of information about the item.


New Apple iPod touch 8GB: Amazon.co.uk: Electr
http://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Apple-iPod-touch-Generatio
Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia Read Later News (28) Popular
Search Twitter
Related Tweets
Trending: Chuck Bass Prinsjesdag McKinley
amazon.co.uk
Shop All Departments
Search
Electronics
Brands
Generation
by Apple
(1 customer review)
Size Name:
8gb: £199.99

Save 5%! This item is £10.99 cheaper £189.00 on Play.com ▾3 alternative retailers

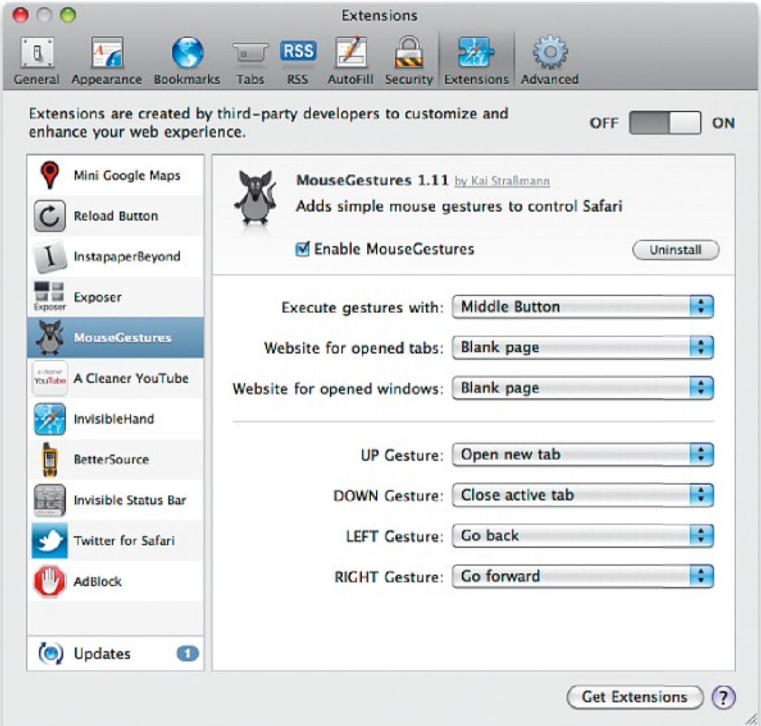
Play.com New Apple iPod Touch 8GB / 4th Gen	£189.00 P&P: Free
JohnLewis.com New Apple iPod touch, 8GB	£189.00 P&P: unknown
Misco.co.uk New iPod touch 8GB	£189.00 P&P: unknown

Invisible Hand will tell you if you've found the best deal while you browse.

First and foremost, it tells you if you've found the best deal, or how much you can save if you shop elsewhere. There's a link to the product page on the cheapest seller's site, alongside a drop-down menu of other possible retailers. This menu lists the product's price and the postage costs. Simply click the retailer's name in the list to be taken to their web page where you can buy the product.

Instapaper Beyond

Instapaper (www.instapaper.com) is a fantastic way to save articles on the web to read later. This little extension enhances the service's, so rather than doing everything with your mouse, it speeds things up using simple keyboard shortcuts. Sign into your account with this extension installed and you'll see the top article is highlighted yellow. Press H at any time to see a list of the commands. As you get to know these, you'll be amazed how much more quickly you can work your way around Instapaper.


Extensions
General
Appearance
Bookmarks
Tabs
RSS
AutoFill
Security
Extensions
Advanced

Extensions are created by third-party developers to customize and enhance your web experience.

OFF
ON
Mini Google Maps
Reload Button
InstapaperBeyond
Exposer
MouseGestures
A Cleaner YouTube
InvisibleHand
BetterSource
Invisible Status Bar
Twitter for Safari
AdBlock
Updates
1

MouseGestures 1.11 by Kai Straßmann

Adds simple mouse gestures to control Safari

☑ Enable MouseGestures

Uninstall

Execute gestures with: Middle Button

Website for opened tabs: Blank page

Website for opened windows: Blank page

UP Gesture: Open new tab

DOWN Gesture: Close active tab

LEFT Gesture: Go back

RIGHT Gesture: Go forward

Get Extensions
?

You can change the way you use Safari by installing the MouseGestures Extension.

MouseGestures

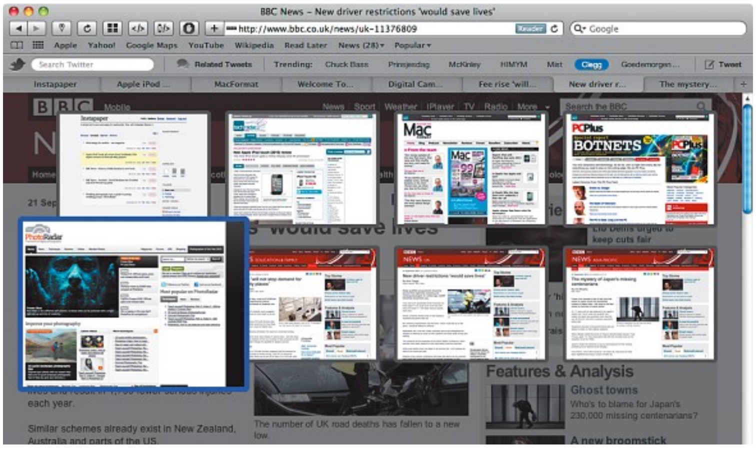
Speed up your web browsing by using your mouse for common tasks. So rather than clicking the Back button or hitting ⇠, simply hold down the middle mouse button and move your pointer left. There are 12 different commands you can use, although you're limited to four gestures – up, down, left and right.

After you've installed this one, you need to restart *Safari* to get it working. And we suggest you don't change the Execute gestures with: drop-down from Middle Button, since using either left- or right-click alternatives could conflict with dragging or contextual menus.

Exposer

If you've got lots of tabs open, or several from the same site, finding the one you're after can become time-consuming. The more tabs you open, the shorter each one's title becomes, making it even harder. Exposer brings Mac OS X's *Exposé* feature to your browser tabs, enabling you to bring up a visual grid of all the tabs you've got open in that window.

Hover your mouse over each for a larger view, then simply click the one you want to bring that tab to the front. You can use Exposer via the button it places in your toolbar, or through a shortcut key, which you can define in its settings.

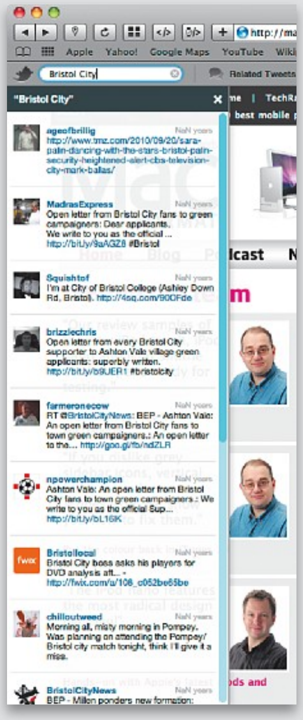

BBC News – New driver restrictions 'would save lives'
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11376809
Reader
Google
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
Read Later
News (28)
Popular
Search Twitter
Related Tweets
Trending:
Tweet
Instapaper
Apple iPod
MacFormat
Welcome To...
Digital Cam...
Fee rise 'will...
New driver r...
The mystery...
Features & Analysis
Ghost towns

The Exposer Extension brings Safari's tabs to life with great previews.

HOW TO / Tweet from Safari

If you're a heavyweight Twitter user, chances are you'll use a dedicated client, such as *Tweetie* or *TweetDeck*. **Tweet for Safari** isn't designed to replace such programs, but it means you're always in touch with what's going on in the Twitter cloud. Click any of the trending terms and a column appears showing you relevant tweets. There's also a search bar and a button to create a new tweet about the page you're viewing. Handily, if you've got *Tweetie for Mac* installed, you can go into the **Twitter for Safari** preferences and tell it to use that for your tweets.

The toolbar shows Twitter usernames related to the page you're viewing – head over to **www.macformat.co.uk** and you'll see '@MacFormat' appears. Click each username to see the person's tweets.


Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Related Tweets
"Bristol City"

Bristol City

ageofbrillig NaN years
http://www.tmz.com/2010/09/20/sara-palin-dancing-with-the-stars-bristol-palin-security-heightened-alert-cbs-television-city-mark-ballas/

MadrasExpress NaN years
Open letter from Bristol City fans to green campaigners: Dear applicants, We write to you as the official ... http://bit.ly/9aAGZ8 #Bristol

Squishtof NaN years
I'm at City of Bristol College (Ashley Down Rd, Bristol). http://4sq.com/9OOFde

brizzlechris NaN years
Open letter from every Bristol City supporter to Ashton Vale village green applicants: superbly written. http://bit.ly/b9UER1 #bristolcity

farmeronecow NaN years
RT @BristolCityNews: BEP - Ashton Vale: An open letter from Bristol City fans to town green campaigners.: An open letter to the... http://goo.gl/fb/ndZLR

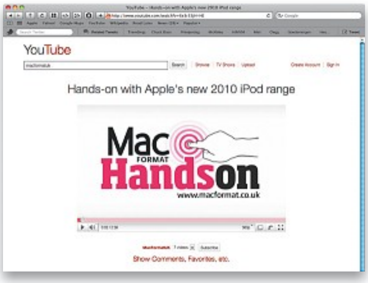
npowerchampion NaN years
Ashton Vale: An open letter from Bristol City fans to town green campaigners.: We write to you as the official Sup... http://bit.ly/bL16K

Bristollocal NaN years
Bristol City boss asks his players for DVD analysis aft... - http://fwix.com/u/108_c052be65be

chilloutweed NaN years
Morning all, misty morning in Pompey. Was planning on attending the Pompey/ Bristol city match tonight, think I'll give it a miss.

BristolCityNews NaN years
BEP - Millen ponders new formation:

Access a host of Twitter features without leaving your browser.


YouTube
Hands-on with Apple's new 2010 iPod range
Mac Format
Handson
www.macformat.co.uk
Show Comments, Favorites, etc.

Watch YouTube videos in a minimalist interface by using A Cleaner YouTube.

A Cleaner YouTube

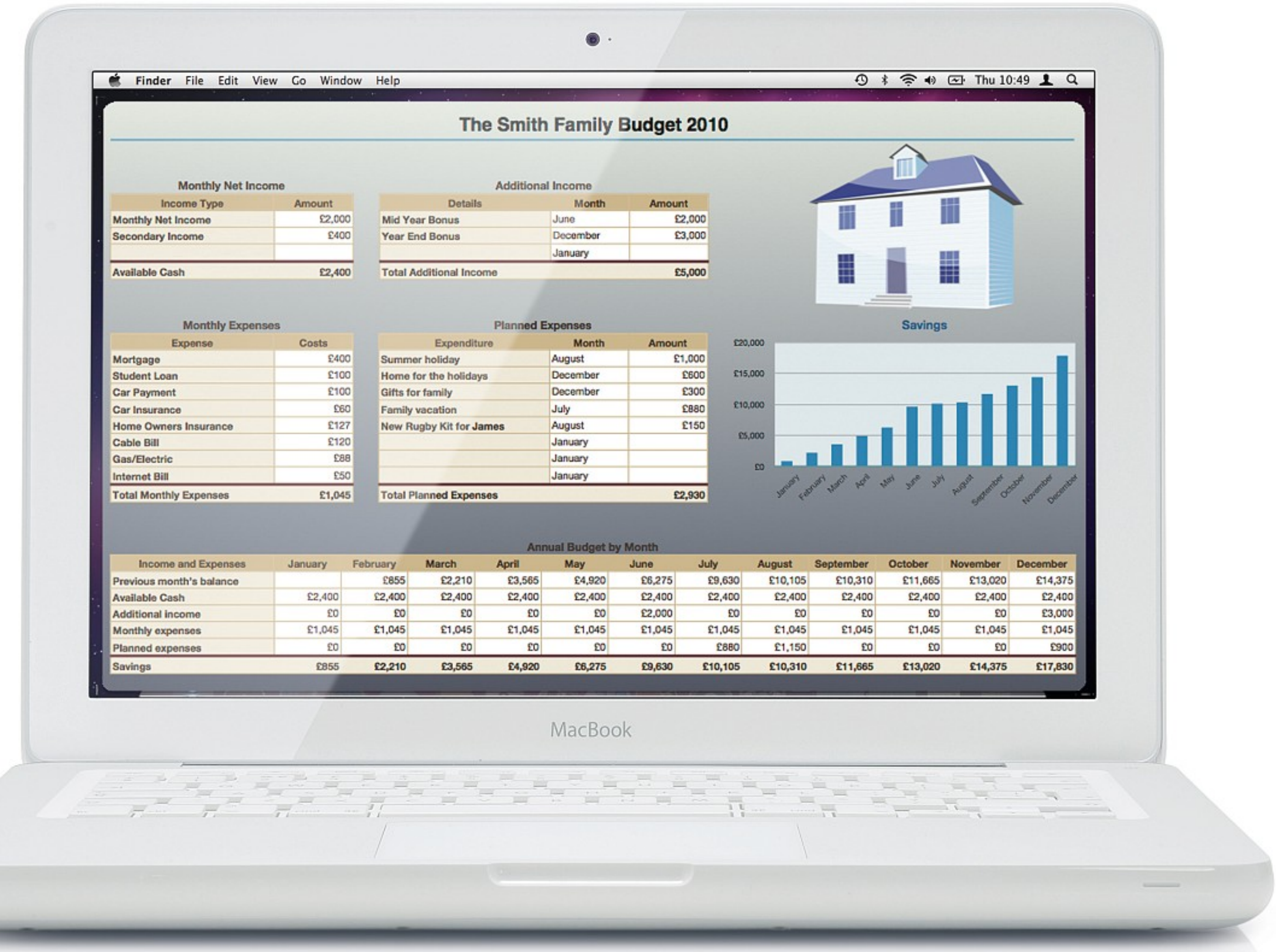
YouTube is all about the video, but unless you switch to fullscreen mode, whatever you're watching is surrounded by related videos, like and dislike buttons, social media controls, comments and more distractions.

A Cleaner YouTube strips all that away, leaving you with a minimalist interface built around the video, so you can watch it without diversions. You still get a search bar and the essential controls for the video, but all the rest is hidden behind a link at the bottom of the screen. So if you want to see the comments, embed code, sharing buttons and so on, it's all just a click away.

Laurence Cable

QUICK TIP

When you're browsing the web, the status bar at the base of your *Safari* window will often lie redundant. The only time you're likely to use it is when you hover over a link, to see where you're about to be whisked off to. Install **Invisible Status Bar** and up pops a bar whenever you hover over a link; it vanishes again when you move on.



The Smith Family Budget 2010

Monthly Net Income

Income Type	Amount
Monthly Net Income	£2,000
Secondary Income	£400
Available Cash	£2,400

Additional Income

Details	Month	Amount
Mid Year Bonus	June	£2,000
Year End Bonus	December	£3,000
	January	
Total Additional Income		£5,000

Monthly Expenses

Expense	Costs
Mortgage	£400
Student Loan	£100
Car Payment	£100
Car Insurance	£60
Home Owners Insurance	£127
Cable Bill	£120
Gas/Electric	£88
Internet Bill	£50
Total Monthly Expenses	£1,045

Planned Expenses

Expenditure	Month	Amount
Summer holiday	August	£1,000
Home for the holidays	December	£600
Gifts for family	December	£300
Family vacation	July	£880
New Rugby Kit for James	August	£150
	January	
	January	
	January	
Total Planned Expenses		£2,930

Annual Budget by Month

Income and Expenses	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Previous month's balance		£855	£2,210	£3,565	£4,920	£6,275	£9,630	£10,105	£10,310	£11,665	£13,020	£14,375
Available Cash	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400
Additional income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3,000
Monthly expenses	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045
Planned expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£880	£1,150	£0	£0	£0	£900
Savings	£855	£2,210	£3,565	£4,920	£6,275	£9,630	£10,105	£10,310	£11,665	£13,020	£14,375	£17,830

Check at a glance if it's high time to rein in the spending.

Create a budget with Numbers

Stay on top of your finances by creating an easy-to-understand family budget

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.6 or later, iWork

Unless you're earning some seriously big bucks you will, from time to time, have to be careful with your spending and keep an eye on your income and outgoings. While most of us are normally content to peek at our bank balance through squinted eyes as the end of the month nears, *Numbers* offers an option to give you financial peace of mind.

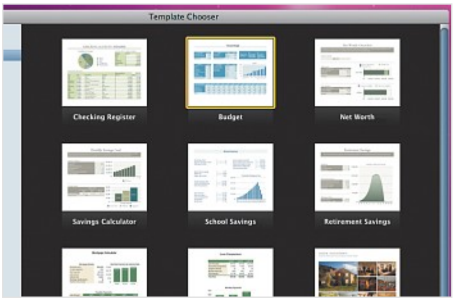
While Apple does make amazing software, even its great minds can't prevent you overspending. By using this tutorial, however, you will at least be able to see when it's time to rein in your spending – or work out if you have that little bit left over to spend on some luxuries. Each field is customisable, so you can add different types of expenses, and the spreadsheet even caters for any additional income you may be receiving, making it perfect for those using joint bank accounts or working two jobs. This type of budgeting is ideal for projecting family expenses over the course of a year, but will also work well for those who are self-employed, to keep track of their work, and also for those looking to save up for a special occasion.

As well as the basic calculations, a *Numbers* spreadsheet will help you track your savings for the year as well, so we've included steps on how to set and adjust the amount you save. While all these calculations may seem daunting, things are made far easier with the preset budget template available in *Numbers*. This should help you understand the basics before moving on to create your own. For now, we'll be using this template to input and edit your expenditure and track your savings over the course of a year, with contingencies for holidays and other events that may affect your budget. Fear not: you'll soon see more black than red on your bank statement!

Ben Harvell

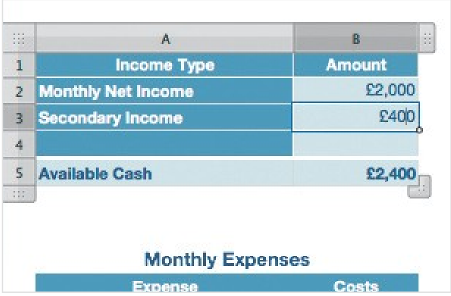
> *"You can add different types of expenses, and the spreadsheet even caters for any additional income"*

HOW TO / Create a home budget with Numbers


Template Chooser
Checking Register
Budget
Net Worth
Savings Calculator
School Savings
Retirement Savings

01 Pick a template

Start by launching *Numbers* and selecting **Personal Finance** from the column on the left to show only budgeting templates. Now double-click on the **Budget** template, which appears at the top of the **Template Chooser**, to begin creating a personal budget.

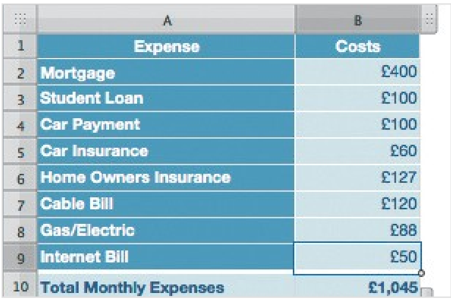


	A	B
1	Income Type	Amount
2	Monthly Net Income	£2,000
3	Secondary Income	£400
4		
5	Available Cash	£2,400

Monthly Expenses

02 Fill in your earnings

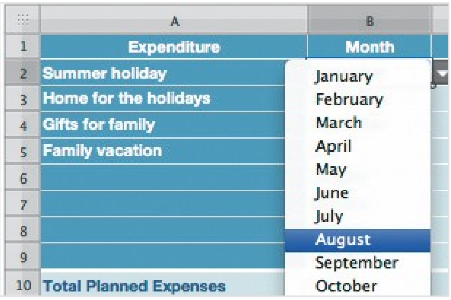
To tailor the spreadsheet to your needs, you need to enter your income information first. Select the fields under **Income Type** and enter your monthly net income as well as any additional income you may receive. You can change the income descriptions as well.



	A	B
1	Expense	Costs
2	Mortgage	£400
3	Student Loan	£100
4	Car Payment	£100
5	Car Insurance	£60
6	Home Owners Insurance	£127
7	Cable Bill	£120
8	Gas/Electric	£88
9	Internet Bill	£50
10	Total Monthly Expenses	£1,045

03 List expenses

To complete the calculations, you now need to fill out information related to your monthly expenses. A default list is provided, however you can change the titles to suit your specific costs. Notice that the total expenses field updates as you enter data.

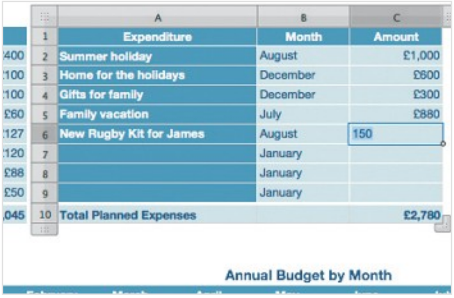


	A	B
1	Expenditure	Month
2	Summer holiday	
3	Home for the holidays	
4	Gifts for family	
5	Family vacation	
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	Total Planned Expenses	

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October

04 One-off expenditure

For non-regular expenses, such as holidays or gift purchases, include them in the **Planned Expenses** section. This adds the costs to a specific month, so that your information can be adjusted without affecting the outcome of your savings chart.

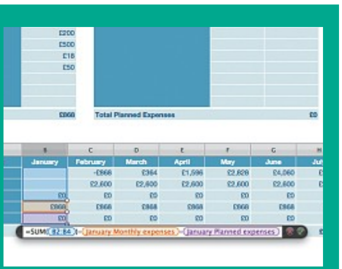


	A	B	C
1	Expenditure	Month	Amount
2	Summer holiday	August	£1,000
3	Home for the holidays	December	£600
4	Gifts for family	December	£300
5	Family vacation	July	£880
6	New Rugby Kit for James	August	150
7		January	
8		January	
9		January	
10	Total Planned Expenses		£2,780

Annual Budget by Month

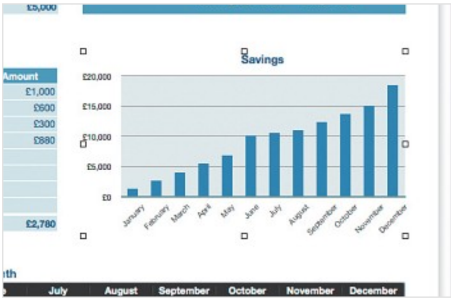
05 Anytime expenses

There are always unexpected costs that arise from time to time, whether they're surprise bills or emergency travel costs. Fortunately, you can also add these to the **Planned Expenses** chart at any time, which will update the rest of your budget.


Total Planned Expenses
January
February
March
April
May
June

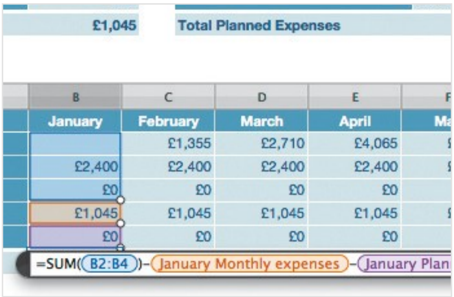
QUICK TIP

Every field at the bottom of your budget can be edited in the same way as step 7. If you want to make an adjustment to any of the calculations, click on the relevant cell and make changes before clicking on the green tick button.


Savings
£20,000
£15,000
£10,000
£5,000
£0
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
Amount
£1,000
£600
£300
£880
£2,780
July
August
September
October
November
December

06 Sort your savings

With your data filled in, the savings chart is calculated based on the money left over once expenses are deducted. But what about spending money? Unless you include a **Spending** section in expenses, you will need to adjust the equation to give you a little leeway.



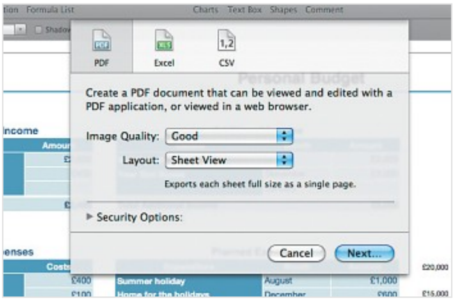
£1,045 Total Planned Expenses

B	C	D	E
January	February	March	April
	£1,355	£2,710	£4,065
£2,400	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400
£0	£0	£0	£0
£1,045	£1,045	£1,045	£1,045
£0	£0	£0	£0

```
=SUM( B2:B4 )-( January Monthly expenses )-( January Plan
```

07 Set spending money

You can adjust the equation by clicking on the **Savings** amount at the bottom of the screen to show the equation editor. Now add a minus sign and the amount of spending money you require. Inputting '200', for example, will keep £200 aside, with the rest going to savings.


Formula List
Charts
Text Box
Shapes
Comment
PDF
Excel
CSV
Cancel
Next...

Create a PDF document that can be viewed and edited with a PDF application, or viewed in a web browser.

Image Quality: Good

Layout: Sheet View

Exports each sheet full size as a single page.

▸ Security Options:

08 Save and share

Now all that's left to do is to save your budget for reference. Looking as good as it does, you might even want to print out your budget for reference. If so, head to the **Share** menu and select **Export** to save the document as a PDF for sharing, or simply print. ●

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03 Up to 22% cheaper than some of our competitors
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05 Inclusive of 3 years support & warranty
06 We say yes to credit when others say no
07 Established for over 25 years
08 We can install & project manage your new system
09 Option to renew after 18 months getting all new IT and keeping the original
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>>OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Keyboard Shortcuts

Claw back time through the elegant dance of your digits

>>PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and househusband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Time: is there anybody who couldn't do with more of it? I know I could. I spend a lot of my days juggling meetings, work, coffee breaks. The one thing they all have in common is their start time, estimated length and impact upon the next event's scheduled start time. So it's all about time.

With OS X, there are plenty of ways to speed up your system and workflow. The most obvious gains are to be made by upgrading hardware. More RAM and bigger, faster hard drives have always been great for returning some speed to an older machine. With the emergence of cheaper solid-state drives, we're now at a point where, for laptop users at least, an SSD is also a good way to speed up your Mac.

Naturally, there are other software-based approaches that can help eke that little bit more performance out of your machine. Third-party software clean-up utilities (and the like) claim to help regain that lost time. But the most effective way of making a sluggish Mac come back to life that I've ever known is simply to erase the hard disk and reinstall OS X.

Excess baggage

One mistake I think people make when they reformat their Mac is that they put all their old stuff straight back on to it. I like to reinstall apps and documents as I need them. It's quite amazing how much old software you install but never ever use, yet regard as essential. This old software sits there doing nothing other than taking up space.

> *"Keyboard shortcuts can make your Mac life a lot better. Once you can reel them off without thinking about it, the benefits are great"*

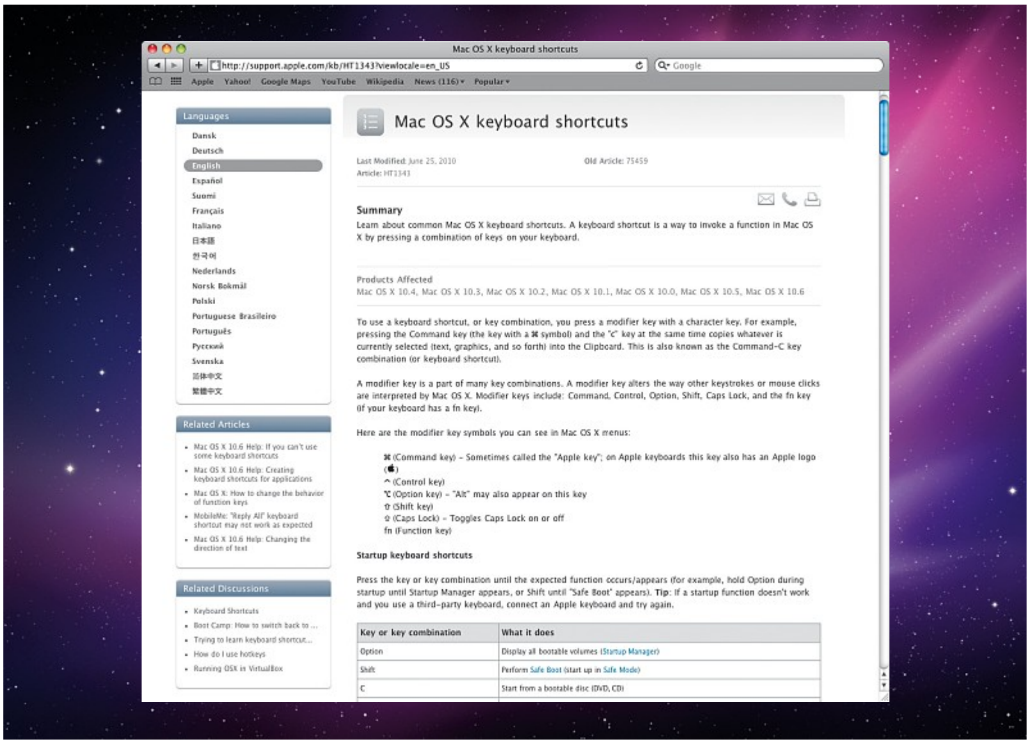
But by far and away the best method of speeding up your Mac is to streamline how you use it. However, this is the hardest way to increase speed because it requires you to take some of the strain. I've lost count of the number of times I've seen people keep every document they've ever created on the Desktop, or have a documents folder with files named 'untitled', 'untitled 1', 'untitled 2' and so on.

It's not just about untidy house keeping, though. It's also about taking the time to learn how to use your Mac. Keyboard shortcuts can make your life a whole lot better. Getting to know your keyboard shortcuts is great for speeding up how you use your Mac. Learning them is a bit like learning your times tables – utterly tedious. However, when you can just reel them off without thinking about it, the benefits are great.

Shortcut to speed

The trick, I found, was to print out a list of the shortcuts and highlight the ones that would be useful, but which I never used. I stuck them on the wall next to my Mac and though at first it slowed me down, eventually my brain caught up and now I'm faster when it comes to using the Mac. Okay, perhaps I'm only marginally faster. But still, it's a free way to improve your Mac's performance.

There's a great resource on the web that lists every single shortcut for the Mac OS. It can be found at: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1343?viewlocale=en_US. Here you'll find every keyboard shortcut from 10.0 to 10.6. Print this list out, highlight the ones you don't use but should, and get learning them. Your Mac will feel faster – I guarantee it. ●



Apple provides you with a list of all the available Mac OS X shortcuts. Learn a handful of them for an extra coffee break a day.

Mac OS X keyboard shortcuts
http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1343?viewlocale=en_US
Google
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (116)
Popular
Languages
Dansk
Deutsch
English
Español
Suomi
Français
Italiano
日本語
한국어
Nederlands
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How do I use hotkeys
Running OSX in VirtualBox

Mac OS X keyboard shortcuts

Last Modified: June 25, 2010 Old Article: 75459
Article: HT1343

Summary
Learn about common Mac OS X keyboard shortcuts. A keyboard shortcut is a way to invoke a function in Mac OS X by pressing a combination of keys on your keyboard.

Products Affected
Mac OS X 10.4, Mac OS X 10.3, Mac OS X 10.2, Mac OS X 10.1, Mac OS X 10.0, Mac OS X 10.5, Mac OS X 10.6

To use a keyboard shortcut, or key combination, you press a modifier key with a character key. For example, pressing the Command key (the key with a ⌘ symbol) and the "c" key at the same time copies whatever is currently selected (text, graphics, and so forth) into the Clipboard. This is also known as the Command-C key combination (or keyboard shortcut).

A modifier key is a part of many key combinations. A modifier key alters the way other keystrokes or mouse clicks are interpreted by Mac OS X. Modifier keys include: Command, Control, Option, Shift, Caps Lock, and the fn key (if your keyboard has a fn key).

Here are the modifier key symbols you can see in Mac OS X menus:

⌘ (Command key) – Sometimes called the "Apple key"; on Apple keyboards this key also has an Apple logo ()
^ (Control key)
⌥ (Option key) – "Alt" may also appear on this key
⇧ (Shift key)
⇪ (Caps Lock) – Toggles Caps Lock on or off
fn (Function key)

Startup keyboard shortcuts

Press the key or key combination until the expected function occurs/appears (for example, hold Option during startup until Startup Manager appears, or Shift until "Safe Boot" appears). **Tip**: If a startup function doesn't work and you use a third-party keyboard, connect an Apple keyboard and try again.

Key or key combination	What it does
Option	Display all bootable volumes (Startup Manager)
Shift	Perform Safe Boot (start up in Safe Mode)
C	Start from a bootable disc (DVD, CD)

Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Thu 10:49
Applications
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
SHARED
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
Dictionary
Name
Dictionary
DVD Player
Font Book
Front Row
GarageBand
Google Chrome
Google Earth
iCal
18.2 MB Application 19 Ju
1 of 49 selected, 95.42 GB available
All Reference Sources
dictionary
All Dictionary Thesaurus Apple Wikipedia
MacBook Pro

Dictionary

dic•tion•ar•y |ˈdik sh əˌnerē| (abbr.: **dict.**)
noun (pl. **-ar•ies**)
a book that lists the words of a language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning, or that gives the equivalent words in a different language.
• a reference book on any subject, the items of which are arranged in alphabetical order *: a dictionary of quotations.*

PHRASES
have swallowed a dictionary informal (of a person) use long and obscure words when speaking.

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from medieval Latin ***dictionarium (manuale)*** or ***dictionarius (liber) 'manual or book of words,'*** from Latin ***dictio*** (see DICTION).

Thesaurus

dictionary
noun
if they don't understand what a word means, then they can look it up in the dictionary: LEXICON, wordbook, word list, glossary; thesaurus.

WORD LINKS
lexicography the practice of writing dictionaries

With Mac OS X's Dictionary app, you've always got words at your fingertips.

Master the OS X Dictionary

Definitions and synonyms are just a keystroke away on your Mac

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Internet connection

Once upon a time, if you encountered a word that you didn't know the meaning of, you'd head to the bookcase and heave down the heaviest book on the shelf. Then you'd thumb through it to find your word, before squinting at the tiny letters to find out what the word means. The advent of computers changed all this, of course, giving you a dictionary at your fingertips. We're going to show you how to make it even easier to look words up, whatever app you're using. We'll also explain how to alter your Mac's default lexical source.

You may have noticed the *Dictionary* app sitting quietly in your Applications folder. In its simplest form, you open it, type in your word and press ⏎ to see the definition. But this process is cumbersome, and there's a much easier and less time-consuming way of finding out what a word you encounter means. There are two ways of doing this – one that provides a pop-up over the text you want to look up, and another that looks up a selected word in the full *Dictionary* app. The former works in most cases, but not all, so it's worth setting both methods up alongside each other to give you quick access to your dictionary, whichever program you're using.

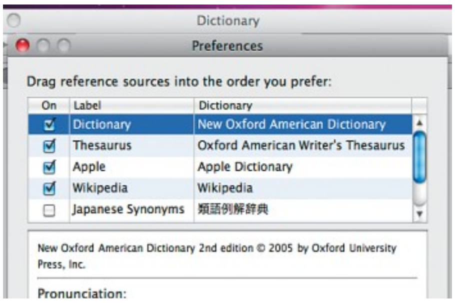
> *"We're going to show you how to make it even easier to look words up, whatever app you're using"*

Mac OS X's *Dictionary* comes with the New Oxford American Dictionary and the Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus installed by default, alongside the Apple Dictionary, which is a glossary of computer terms. It can also do a Wikipedia search for you – handy if you want more than just a basic definition.

By default, your Mac will show you dictionary definitions of words you look up. You can manually switch to see synonyms from the thesaurus, but if you'd rather see these immediately, you can easily reorder your preferences to suit.

Laurence Cable

HOW TO / Get the most out of Dictionary


Dictionary
Preferences

Drag reference sources into the order you prefer:

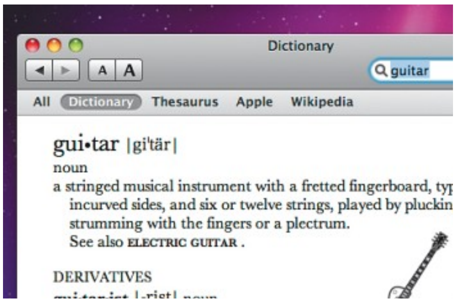
On	Label	Dictionary
☑	Dictionary	New Oxford American Dictionary
☑	Thesaurus	Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus
☑	Apple	Apple Dictionary
☑	Wikipedia	Wikipedia
☐	Japanese Synonyms	類語例解辞典

New Oxford American Dictionary 2nd edition © 2005 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Pronunciation:

01 Choose your tome

Head into **Applications** and open *Dictionary*. Before we get to using it, go into Dictionary > Preferences. You'll see your dictionaries listed – the top one being your preferred choice. To prioritise the thesaurus, drag it to the top.

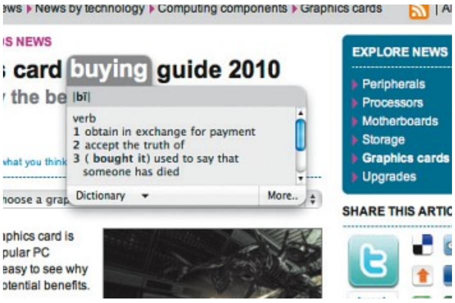

Dictionary
A
A
guitar
All
Dictionary
Thesaurus
Apple
Wikipedia

gui•tar |giˈtär|
noun
a stringed musical instrument with a fretted fingerboard, typ
incurved sides, and six or twelve strings, played by pluckin
strumming with the fingers or a plectrum.
See also ELECTRIC GUITAR .

DERIVATIVES

02 Simple lookup

Close **Preferences** and type a word into the *Dictionary* search bar. The results will appear below – use the arrow keys to highlight the one you want and press ⏎ for a definition. Use the buttons along the top to choose which service you'd like to use to look the word up in.

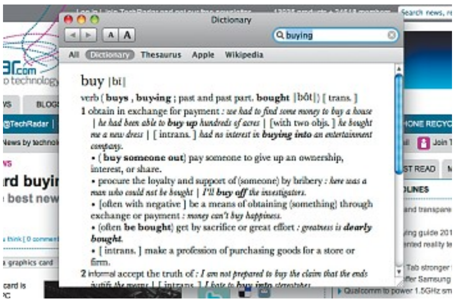

ews ▸ News by technology ▸ Computing components ▸ Graphics cards
S NEWS
card buying guide 2010
the be
hat you think
hoose a grap
phics card is
pular PC
easy to see why
otential benefits.
EXPLORE NEWS
Peripherals
Processors
Motherboards
Storage
Graphics cards
Upgrades
SHARE THIS ARTIC

|bī|
verb
1 obtain in exchange for payment
2 accept the truth of
3 (**bought it**) used to say that someone has died

Dictionary ▾ More..

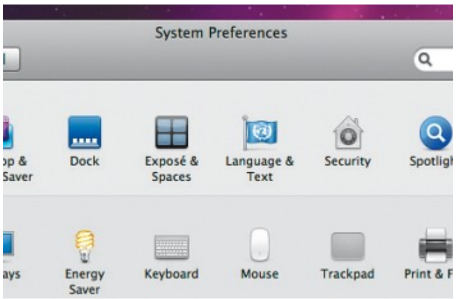
03 Quick lookup

When you're in software that supports it, hover your mouse over a word and press ctrl+⌘+D. You'll see a miniature pop-up appear with the most common definition or synonyms. You'll also see how to pronounce the word, displayed in phonetic terms.


Dictionary
buying
All
Dictionary
Thesaurus
Apple
Wikipedia
buy |bī|

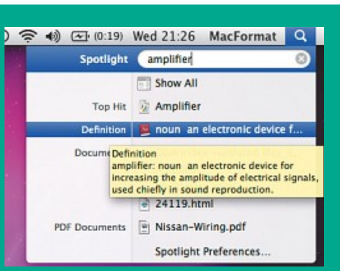
04 Greater depth

Use the drop-down at the bottom to pick between **Dictionary**, **Thesaurus** and any others you enabled in Step 1. You can scroll down for more, but you can't increase the pop-up's size. Click **More…** in the bottom-right corner to see the word's entry in the full *Dictionary* app.


System Preferences
Dock
Exposé & Spaces
Language & Text
Security
Spotligh
Energy Saver
Keyboard
Mouse
Trackpad
Print & F

05 Alternative keystroke

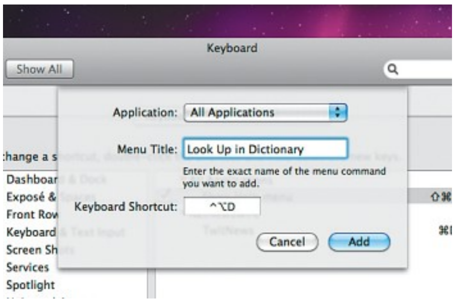
The pop-up won't work everywhere – *Word* doesn't like it, for example, and neither does Google Docs, though *Safari* will generally play ball. To remedy this, we'll set up a shortcut to look up a selected word in *Dictionary*. Open *System Preferences* and click **Keyboard**.


(0:19) Wed 21:26 MacFormat
Spotlight
amplifier
Show All
Top Hit
Amplifier
Definition
noun an electronic device f...
Docume
24119.html
PDF Documents
Nissan-Wiring.pdf
Spotlight Preferences...

Definition
amplifier: noun an electronic device for increasing the amplitude of electrical signals, used chiefly in sound reproduction.

QUICK TIP

Did you know that you can look up words in *Dictionary* using Spotlight? Simply type your word into the Spotlight search field and one of your results will be marked **Definition**. Hover your mouse over it to see the whole definition.


Keyboard
Show All
hange a s
Dashboar
Exposé &
Front Row
Keyboard
Screen Sh
Services
Spotlight
Cancel
Add

Application: All Applications

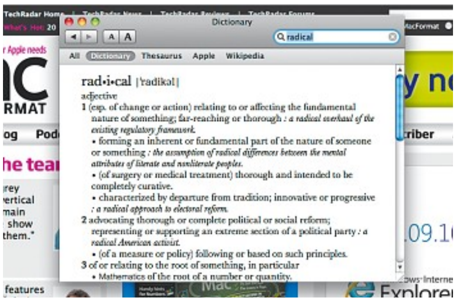
Menu Title: Look Up in Dictionary

Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.

Keyboard Shortcut: ^⌥D

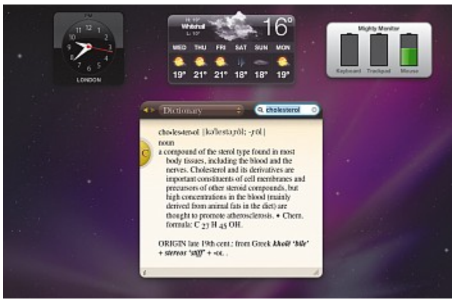
06 Choose your keys

Click **Keyboard Shortcuts**, select **Application Shortcuts** in the left pane and click the + button. In the pop-up, type **Look Up in Dictionary** into the **Menu Title** box – make sure you capitalise the same words we have. In the **Keyboard Shortcut** box, press ctrl+⌥+D.


Dictionary
radical
All
Dictionary
Thesaurus
Apple
Wikipedia
rad•i•cal |ˈradikəl|

07 Look up a word

Having a different keystroke here means you can still access the small pop-up described earlier. Now open another application, select a word to look up and press ctrl+⌥+D – the *Dictionary* app will open and show you the full definition for your selected word.


LONDON
16°
19° 21° 21° 18° 18° 19°
Dictionary
cholesterol
cho•les•ter•ol |kəˈlestəˌrôl; -ˌrōl|

08 Dashboard widget

If you're a fan of Mac OS X's *Dashboard*, the **Dictionary** widget is a must-have. Type your word into the box and press ⏎ for the definition. Use the drop-down to pick between **Dictionary** and **Thesaurus**, or click the letter at the side to see other uses of the word. ●

Make a screensaver? How do you do that? With Quartz Composer!

Make your own screensaver

Harness the power of Quartz Composer, Apple's visual development tool

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 2 hours

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A recent OS X install disk or disk image

One of Apple's best-kept secrets is *Quartz Composer*. It's an easy-to-use design environment for graphics and animations, and it's supplied free with every recent Mac, from OS X Tiger onwards. *Quartz Composer* can do amazing things, such as pull information off the web and animate it as it changes. It can also create stunning music visualisations, and custom image and video filters for Mac applications such as *iChat* and *Final Cut Pro*.

In this example, we'll get you started with a simple screensaver to introduce you to the key elements of a *Quartz Composer* project. If you like what you see, you can experiment further – and you'll soon be creating effects and images you'd never have expected from your Mac.

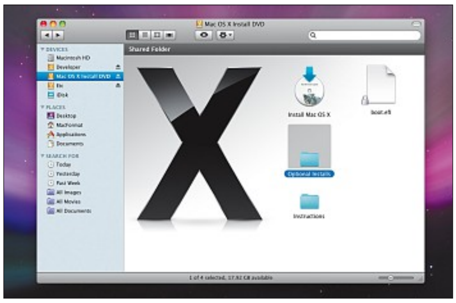
Quartz Composer is part of the *Xcode* suite of development tools. *Xcode* is supplied with every Mac in an **Optional Installs** folder on the OS X disk. The rest of *Xcode* is big and complex – allow around 4GB of disk space – and unfortunately there's no way to explore *Quartz Composer* without it. But once it's on your Mac, you can ignore the other developer tools because you won't be needing them for this project.

> *"Quartz Composer is part of the Xcode development suite – supplied with every Mac on the OS X disk"*

Quartz Composer is modular; you build effects by plugging together modules with patch cords on your monitor. It's a lot like a music synth for video and stills, and it has been used professionally by animators. But you don't need to understand every module to get started. Once we've shown the basics of module patching, the easiest way to learn *Quartz Composer* is to experiment.

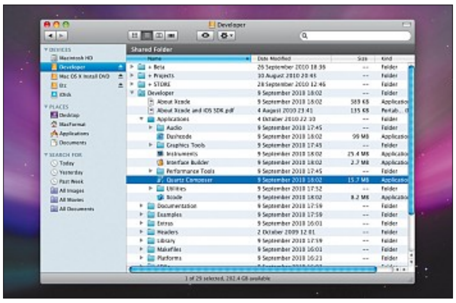
There's also a good selection of sample projects and templates you can pull apart and redesign from. If you want more details, you can find the official documentation at http://bit.ly/9PQ2bm.
Richard Wentk

HOW TO / Create a screensaver with Quartz Composer


Mac OS X Install DVD
Install Mac OS X
Optional Installs
Instructions

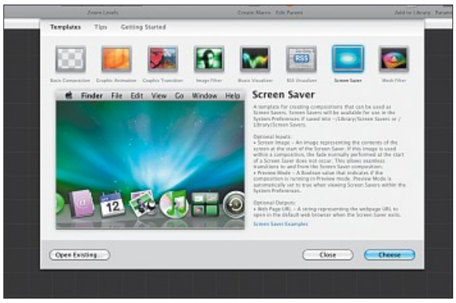
01 Install it

Find your OS X install DVD, and open the **Optional Installs** folder. You'll find the *Xcode* installer and an *Optional Installs* installer. Double-click on **Xcode.mpkg** to begin installing *Xcode*. Select the default install options and wait. The full install can take a couple of hours.



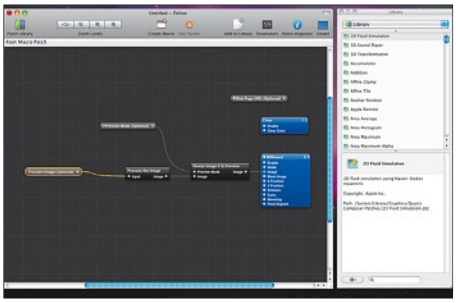
02 Run it

Xcode installs to a folder called **Developer** on your boot disk. You'll find *Quartz Composer* inside the **Applications** folder inside **Developer**. Double-click on it to run it. Ignore the other items – unless you want to become a Mac and iPhone developer!


Templates
Screen Saver
Open Existing...
Close
Choose

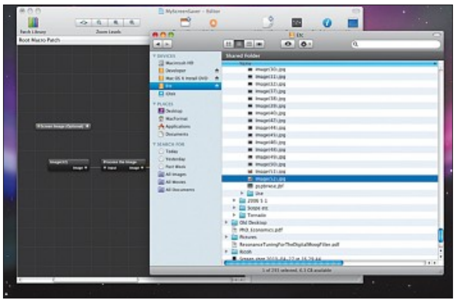
03 Pick a template

You'll see this template selection screen. Each template is a mini-application. Click on the **Screen Saver** template at the top, and click **Choose** to create a new project. If you don't see this screen initially, quit *Quartz Composer* and then run it again.



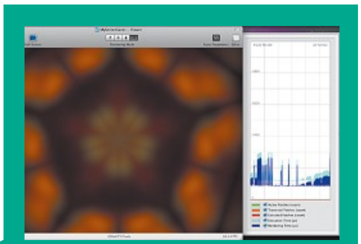
04 Explore the windows

You'll see an **Editor** window and a **Library** window. The **Editor** shows the *Quartz Composer* patch. The **Library** is a list of modules you can add to a project. You can open some of the modules by right-clicking and selecting **Edit Macro**. Select **Edit Parent** in the toolbar to close.



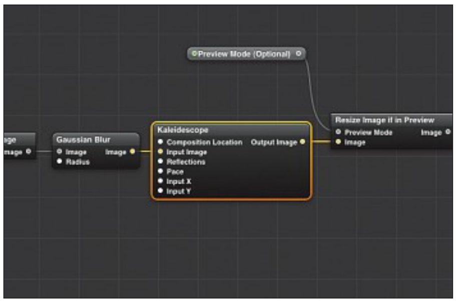
05 Pick an image

Open *Finder*, find an image file (pick something colourful) and drag it from *Finder* into the **Editor**. Disconnect the old image module, and connect the new one by dragging a patch cord. Make and break patchcords by dragging their ends to and from circles on a module.



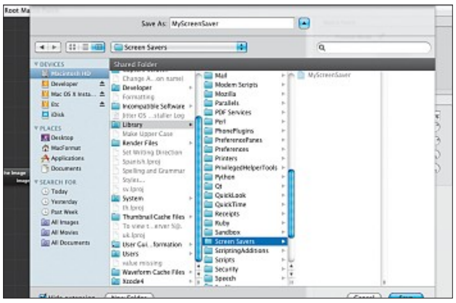
QUICK TIP

At the top-right of the main *Quartz Composer* window you'll see the **Viewer** button. Click it to show a running composition preview. At the bottom-right of this window is an FPS counter. Select an aspect ratio from the menu at the bottom-left for a processing graph.


Preview Mode (Optional)
Gaussian Blur
Image
Radius
Image
Kaleidoscope
Composition Location
Output Image
Input Image
Reflections
Pace
Input X
Input Y
Resize Image if in Preview
Preview Mode
Image
Image

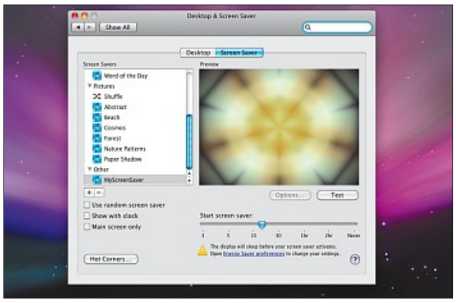
06 Make a patch

Drag **Gaussian Blur** and **Kaleidoscope** modules from the **Library** into the project. Break the cord between **Resize Image** and **Process the Image**, and patch them in series. Click on **Parameters** in the **Toolbar** to view settings. Experiment with the parameters.


Save As: MyScreenSaver
Screen Savers

07 Make a screensaver

When you're happy with the parameter settings, save the patch to **Macintosh HD/ Library/Screen Savers**. This is a protected system directory, so you'll need admin privileges to do this. The save name doesn't matter, as long as it's recognisable.


Desktop & Screen Saver
Desktop
Screen Saver
Preview
MyScreenSaver
Options...
Test
Hot Corners...

08 Run it!

Go to *System Preferences* and open **Desktop & Screen Saver**. Select **Screen Saver** and scroll down the list. Your new screensaver will appear at the bottom under the **Other** header. Click on it to show a preview window. Then test and run the screensaver as usual. ●

Master Apple's smart folders

We've collected together the five best uses for smart folders on your Mac

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

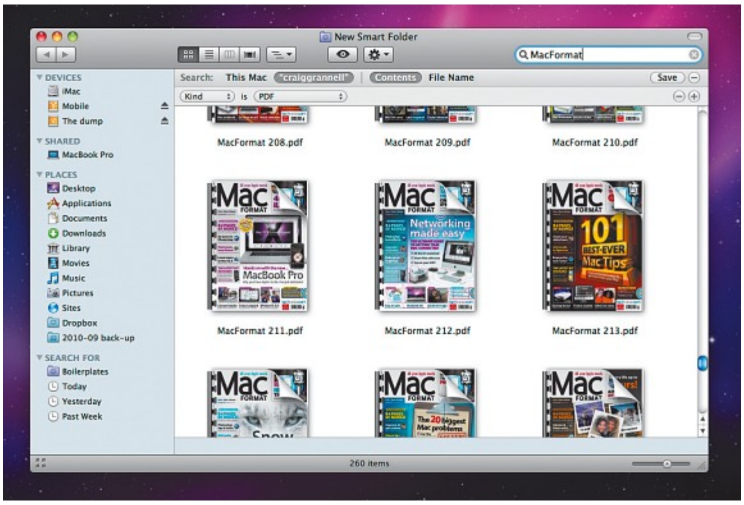
WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.4+, Mail, iPhoto, iTunes, Address Book

One of the things Apple has been very keen on since the original Macintosh is the idea of making technology less complicated. By making things simpler and more streamlined, and decreasing complexity (sometimes – although not always – at the expense of very direct control), Apple has honed user experiences that have taken the industry in new directions. Nowhere is this clearer than in file and media management.

Take a terrifying trip back to the distant past (well, the early 80s), and file systems were all about making you work with command lines. Apple obliterated this with Mac OS, encouraging a pointer-driven desktop metaphor that still exists in OS X and rival operating systems. However, with the huge number of files users juggle today, the drag-and-drop file system has become unwieldy, forcing users to spend hours filing documents, and then rifling back through nested folders to unearth them at a later date.

In the Spotlight

With OS X 10.4, Apple introduced Spotlight, its first blow against the traditional file system. The idea with Spotlight is that you use a search term to find what you want, and the list of suggested items dynamically updates as you amend your term. In many cases, this renders the file system obsolete. And with Spotlight also came the ability to save and edit searches, based on user-defined criteria, as smart folders.


New Smart Folder
DEVICES
iMac
Mobile
The dump
SHARED
MacBook Pro
PLACES
Desktop
Applications
Documents
Downloads
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Sites
Dropbox
2010-09 back-up
SEARCH FOR
Boilerplates
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
Save
MacFormat 208.pdf
MacFormat 209.pdf
MacFormat 210.pdf
MacFormat 211.pdf
MacFormat 212.pdf
MacFormat 213.pdf
260 items

MacFormat

Search: This Mac "craiggrannell" Contents File Name

Kind is PDF

Smart folders in Finder enable you to create dynamic folders for accessing documents.

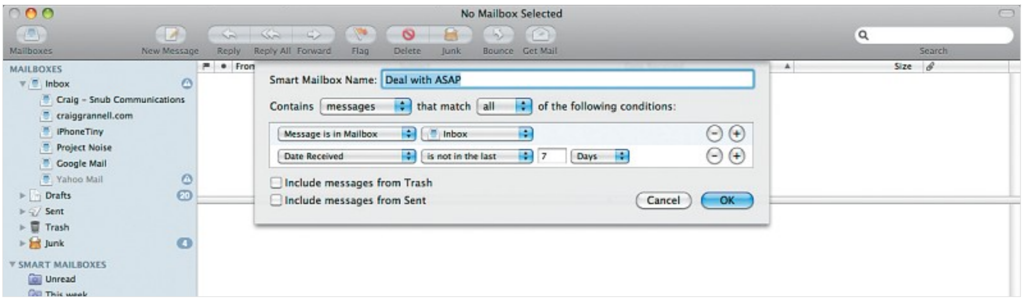
Smart folders in *Finder* are actually a type of virtual folder, a concept first fully championed by the innovative BeOS, but that's since been taken on wholesale by Apple. Prior to Spotlight's arrival, Apple had trialled the concept in *iTunes* (as smart playlists) and *iPhoto* (as smart albums), but it's now integrated directly into *Finder*, along with *Mail* (as smart mailboxes) and *Address Book* (as smart groups).

> *"Although there are variations in the way virtual folders work in these applications, they are a relatively generic concept"*

Although there are variations in the way virtual folders work in these apps, it's important to understand that they are a relatively generic concept. In the same way that you don't relearn how to cut, copy and paste in different applications, don't think you have to start from scratch when you've mastered virtual folders in *iTunes* and then move to *iPhoto* or *Mail*. There are common themes with virtual folders.

You create and name the container, and then use one or more conditions and values to define what the container provides access to, regardless of where the items are stored on your Mac (or the library of an application, in the likes of *iPhoto*). Depending on your wishes, you can set the container to include items that match all or any defined conditions. (*iTunes* goes further, providing the potential for more complex logic via nested groups of conditions.) Containers can be edited later, so you can update conditions when needed. Also remember that virtual folders really are virtual – if you delete a smart folder in *Finder* or a smart album in *iPhoto*, the items that were in it are unaffected.

Craig Grannell


No Mailbox Selected
Mailboxes
New Message
Reply
Reply All
Forward
Flag
Delete
Junk
Bounce
Get Mail
Search
From
Size
MAILBOXES
Inbox
Craig – Snub Communications
craiggrannell.com
iPhoneTiny
Project Noise
Google Mail
Yahoo Mail
Drafts
Sent
Trash
Junk
SMART MAILBOXES
Unread
This week
Cancel
OK

Smart Mailbox Name: Deal with ASAP

Contains messages that match all of the following conditions:

Message is in Mailbox Inbox

Date Received is not in the last 7 Days

☐ Include messages from Trash

☐ Include messages from Sent

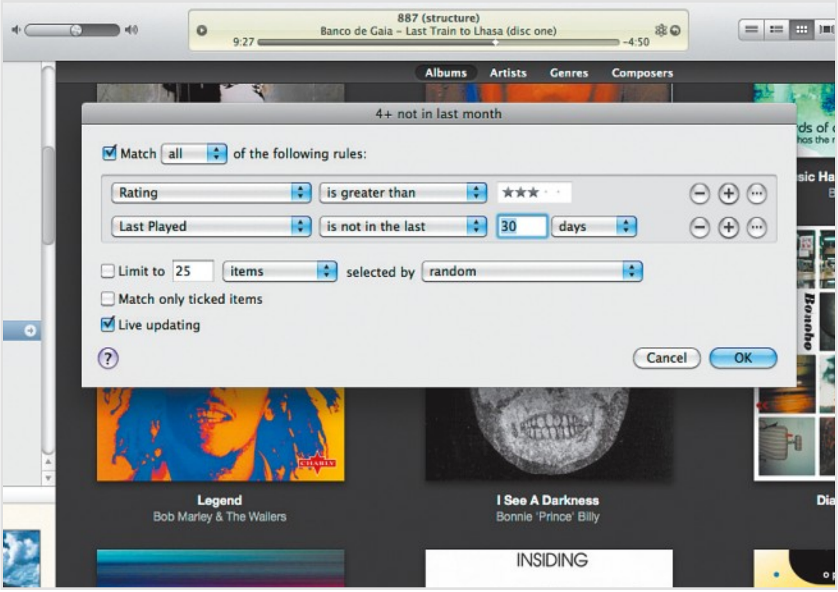
Use smart mailboxes in Mail to group emails, regardless of where they're filed.

HOW TO / Effectively use virtual folders

01 Smart playlists in iTunes

iTunes offers the most powerful implementation of virtual folders in Mac OS X, enabling you to nest groups of rules. Create a smart playlist via File > New Smart Playlist (or ⌥+⌘+N). In the **Smart Playlist** window, select a criterion from the left-most menu and add values using the second menu and the field. Use the **+** button to add extra rules. Rules can be deleted using the **-** button, although there's no undo. Create nested rule sets using the **…** button. Use **all** or **any** match menu item(s) to determine whether results depend on all or any conditions being met. For example, set **Artist is** [**The Beatles**] and **Date Added is in the last** [**12**] **months**; **all** then returns Beatles tracks added in the past year, but **any** returns all Beatles tracks and all tracks by other artists added over the past 12 months.

Good uses for smart playlists include returning dynamic lists of highly rated tracks, those you've not heard recently, those you've recently added, or a combination of these things. To edit an existing smart playlist, select it in the *iTunes* sidebar and go to File > Edit Smart Playlist.


887 (structure)
Banco de Gaia – Last Train to Lhasa (disc one)
9:27
-4:50
Albums
Artists
Genres
Composers
Legend
Bob Marley & The Wailers
I See A Darkness
Bonnie 'Prince' Billy
INSIDING

4+ not in last month

☑ Match all of the following rules:

Rating | is greater than | ★★★

Last Played | is not in the last | 30 | days

☐ Limit to 25 items selected by random

☐ Match only ticked items

☑ Live updating

Cancel OK

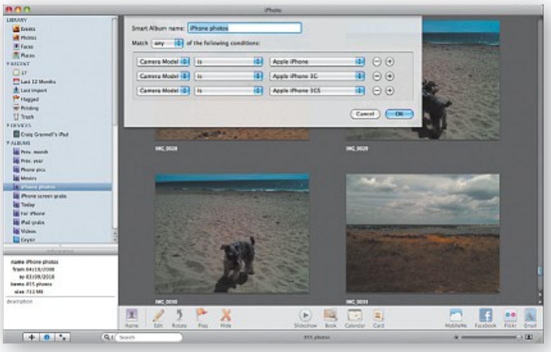
Use smart playlists in iTunes to automatically find favourite tracks you've not played recently.

02 Smart groups in Address Book

In *Address Book*, File > New Smart Group (or ⌥+⌘+N) starts the process. Conditions are based on fields within a card, including notes; if you're a member of a football team, you could add [**football team**] to the **Notes** section of relevant contacts, and then create a smart group with the condition **Note contains** [**football team**]. If you check **Highlight group when updated**, groups are highlighted in the *Address Book* sidebar when changes occur. To edit a selected smart group, go to Edit > Edit Smart Group. Since *Address Book* integrates with other OS X applications, you can type a smart group name into *iCal* or *Mail*, and the application will automatically replace it with the members of the group.

03 Smart albums in iPhoto

File > New Smart Album (or ⌥+⌘+N) creates a smart album, and conditions are defined in a sheet. With *iPhoto*, conditions can be based around tags applied to photos (manually or automatically), including description, date, face, keyword and rating. There are also hardware-based options. You can set up date-based smart albums (**Date is in the last** [**1**] **months**), an album of iPhone pictures (**Camera model is** [**Apple iPhone 4**]), or a smart album of your imported iOS device videos (**Keyword contains** [**movie**]). To edit a selected smart album, go to File > Edit Smart Album.



Smart Album name: iPhone photos

Match any of the following conditions:

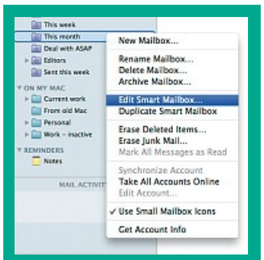
Camera Model | is | Apple iPhone

Camera Model | is | Apple iPhone 3G

Camera Model | is | Apple iPhone 3GS

Cancel OK

Smart albums can be used to create albums based on keywords or photos from certain hardware.


This week
This month
Deal with ASAP
Editors
Sent this week
ON MY MAC
Current work
From old Mac
Personal
Work – inactive
REMINDERS
Notes
MAIL ACTIVITY
New Mailbox…
Rename Mailbox…
Delete Mailbox…
Archive Mailbox…
Edit Smart Mailbox…
Duplicate Smart Mailbox
Erase Deleted Items…
Erase Junk Mail…
Mark All Messages as Read
Synchronize Account
Take All Accounts Online
Edit Account…
✓ Use Small Mailbox Icons
Get Account Info

QUICK TIP

Elsewhere, we provide commands for editing virtual folders, but it's quickest to select one and use a contextual menu - ≈- or right-click the virtual folder and select the relevant option.

04 Smart mailboxes in Mail

If you get lots of email, *Mail's* smart mailboxes are invaluable. Mailbox > New Smart Mailbox gets things started, and conditions similar to *iPhoto*. Checkboxes towards the bottom of the sheet enable you to toggle the inclusion of messages from Trash and Sent. Mailbox > Edit Smart Mailbox enables you to edit a smart mailbox. Good ideas for smart mailboxes include: creating a repository for unread mail (**Message is Unread** and **Message is not in Mailbox Junk**); date-based collections (such as **Date Received is in the last** [**7**] **Days**); and overlooked emails (**Message is in Mailbox Inbox** and **Date Received is not in the last** [**7**] **Days**).

05 Smart folders in Finder

Creating virtual folders in *Finder* differs from other applications. After going to File > New Smart Folder (or ⌥+⌘+N), a new *Finder* window opens. You then define conditions in the window. To add keywords, type them in the search field. By default, few criteria are available, but you can access more via the **Other…** option in the search attribute menu; you can also check **In Menu** checkboxes in the selection sheet so your favourite attributes will show up in future. Click **Save** to save your smart folder. By default, they live in **~/Library/Saved Searches** and the **Add To Sidebar** option adds them to *Finder* sidebars for easy access. To edit a smart folder, open it in *Finder* and select **Show Search Criteria** from the **Action** menu (the one with the cog icon). ●

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>Voila 2.5 Record and capture your Mac's screen

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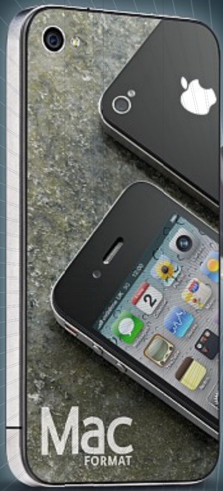

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Is the iPad too cool for school?

At a school in Scotland, iPads have transformed the classroom, unleashing creative potential and removing barriers. But it hasn't all been plain sailing…

Fraser Speirs is talking about changes caused by his school's radical shift in technology deployment. Every pupil at Cedars School of Excellence, in Greenock, Scotland, is now armed with an iPad, creating an environment a world away from the typical 'computer room', and providing the potential for seamless integration of technology and traditional teaching.

> "It's pure awesome! It's the size of a book but it can do a million things!" - Zander

The iPad project arose from day-to-day demands within the school. As Head of Computing, a dozen iMacs were fixed in Fraser's classroom, and a dozen MacBooks were available for booking; but with teachers increasingly wanting to provide pupils with web access, pressure and demand grew.

"In January 2010, we started looking for answers," recalls Fraser. The school couldn't afford enough laptops to make a meaningful difference, but the iPod touch was considered, since internet access was a big factor. "We realised the iPod touch was cheap enough to give one to everybody," says Fraser, "but teachers had issues with what it couldn't do."

At the time, the iPod touch couldn't output to a projector nor connect to a mechanical keyboard, but the school nonetheless continued forming its plans. And then the iPad arrived. Fraser says Apple's tablet dealt with every problem the school had with the iPod touch: it boasted a decent software keyboard and projector connection, and Apple made office apps available for sale. On importing his own iPad from the US, Fraser was sold: "On the first day, it ran and ran. I couldn't make the battery die, and I realised this alone would transform the technology experience in the classroom."

With many of the school's teachers being iPhone owners, few needed convincing. A leasing arrangement with the local Apple Store soon saw dozens of iPads winging their way »

> “It makes homework much easier to do and so much easier to submit – you can do it all through email” – **Chloe**

[01] **Sophisticated technology in the classroom will soon be commonplace.**

[02] **Fraser says the lack of friction, with the iPad being on the desk, like a book, makes it great for schools: “It’s just another resource, another medium for learning and self-expression. There’s no ‘we’re doing computers today, kids’!”**

to Greenock. (Fraser notes that leasing was done through the Glasgow Apple Store’s business team, and isn’t a special school lease.) Even teachers who weren’t confident with technology and didn’t see a place for their laptops in school started bringing their iPads with them every day, and everyone found different ways for Apple’s tablet to enhance their classes. Ultimately, this is driven by the blank-slate aspect of the iPad. “This is a device we bought, but it’s not just a textbook or an instrument, or a set of art tools – it’s all of those things and more,” says Fraser, adding that one teacher’s putting together a band, purely comprising children playing iPad apps. “The thing is, to do this we’re not adding anything to the classroom – it’s just more software on the devices.”

When the discussion turns to specific use-scenarios for the iPad, it’s clear Apple’s ‘there’s an app for that’ approach could revolutionise the classroom. For infants, the school uses the likes of wood-puzzle-style apps to develop motor skills, *abc PocketPhonics* for tracing letters, and *Math Bingo* (which Fraser calls a “sensational hit”) for basic maths. Elsewhere, older pupils are immersed in *iBooks*, which replaces the class’s paper books with eBooks, and *Keynote* for presentations. And with any child aged 10 or older allowed to take their iPad home, homework is sent and received via email; this enables teachers to set more flexible tasks in sensible chunks, eliminates most excuses and has reduced the amount of incomplete homework. Interestingly, many apps are also being used in new and innovative ways. For example, Fraser says *Numbers* is employed in situations where people may not have reached for a spreadsheet before, such as to create formulae for testing expected output in programming classes, or for capturing live information about experiments as they progress.

The nature of the App Store helps, providing countless specialised apps that can be used to teach a particular aspect of a course. In his computing class, Fraser has utilised the game *Binary Madness HD*, which has you convert random decimal numbers to binary as quickly as possible: “It’s not something I use every day, but small apps like this reinforce specific parts of learning.” He rightly adds this is something that you rarely find on other platforms: “No-one would write a Mac app like *Binary Madness HD*, but on iOS it seems to be the kind of thing developers find interesting – creating simple apps for only 59p.”

iPad for all

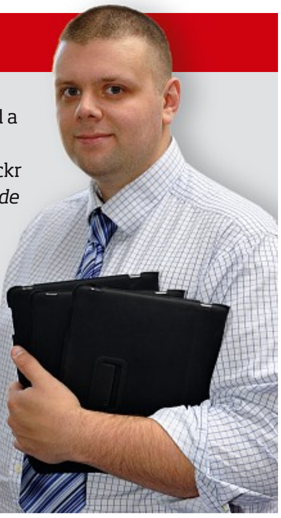
The benefit of the school’s ‘iPad for all’ philosophy is particularly evident in art. *Brushes* is popular, as are quirkier apps such as *TypeDrawing* (where you finger-paint with letters); most importantly, though, instead of replacing traditional media, the iPad has given pupils newfound confidence in all areas of art. “The iPad is not a substitute for existing media, and it requires artistic skill to master, but in some ways it more effectively helps pupils develop confidence in their abilities and enthusiasm to try,” asserts art teacher Jenny Oakley. She says a combination of immediacy, security (due to ‘undo’) and usability means pupils “do not have to

FRASER SPEIRS / Teaching and blogging

Although Fraser Speirs is now immersed in the field of teaching and heading up the iPad revolution at the Scottish school where he works, he’s a computer scientist by trade. But after a decade at Glasgow University as student and employee, he started working at Cedars School of Excellence. He’s now Head of Computing and is responsible for designing and deploying the networks and technology used to teach at the school.

Fraser is also well-known in the Mac and iOS community for his software development work. Via his company, Connected Flow, Fraser has released a number of products, mostly photography-oriented, including Flickr search tools *Viewfinder* and *Darkslide* for Mac and iOS, respectively.

To keep up to date with the iPad project and other thoughts regarding technology in education, visit Fraser’s blog at **http://speirs.org** or follow him on Twitter: @fraserspeirs.



Fraser Speirs: the ‘IT guy’ at the heart of the iPad revolution.

[03] Cedar's School strikes a balance between using technology and traditional methods.

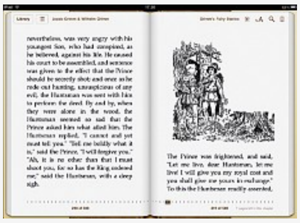
[04] Some iPad apps require skill to master, but can help pupils develop confidence in their abilities.

LEARNING APPS / The basics covered for all ages

Getting Started
Part 6: Sharing Your Wo

Keynote

Keynote is a hit in Cedars School of Excellence classrooms, with pupils of all ages using it to create and give presentations. "A bunch of kids are going to the Apple Store to show the people there what they've been working on and teach them new things," says Fraser Speirs.



iBooks

With children aged 10 and up, the classes at Fraser's school sometimes use *iBooks* for reading rather than paper editions. The benefits are: first, the potential to reduce costs, since eBooks can't wear out; second, it should enable pupils to shed some weight from their schoolbags.

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Math Bingo

Apple's tablet assists the younger pupils greatly. Fraser calls *Math Bingo* "a sensational hit", engaging five-year-olds with its bright colours and game-like environment; it also gets right to the point of basic mathematics, without first forcing children to learn how to lay out sums.

> "It makes homework and work in class more enjoyable" – **Jonathan**

[05] The iPad's form factor makes it more akin to a book than a computer, enabling pupils and teachers to bypass 'computer stuff' and just get on with learning.

overcome the hindrance of learning to manipulate another tool – rather, they use one they've developed dexterity in since birth". With this newfound confidence, pupils are more willing to try, which Oakley says is "half the battle". The iPad also provides assistance regarding experimentation – pupils can use filters and effects to visualise how something would look in a different medium and then use real-world tools to mimic what they see on the screen.

The move to digital

While it's clear Cedars School of Excellence has integrated iPads into the learning environment, critics remain concerned; they claim the school's pupils are being denied access to technology that would supposedly prepare them for the real world and that 'everything' is being replaced by electronic content. Such inaccurate statements annoy Fraser: "In reality, we're sometimes using the iPad exclusively and sometimes not. Truth be told, I'd like to move to the iPad more, but we're constrained by resources – some textbooks aren't available electronically, for example. Anyone against such iPad use should bear in mind that society itself is in the process of replacing everything with electronic content – it's happened with CDs, and Amazon and Apple are doing the same with books." Fraser adds that a child starting school today won't leave until 2023, by which point, who knows what technology will be commonplace? His thoughts are the same regarding anyone who says children should solely work on Windows PCs – instead, he argues that they should use whatever tools enable them to best learn: "The iPad beats a PC because it removes that whole layer of 'we're doing computers now', and you end up with 'we're doing maths' or 'we're doing music'." The iPad also eliminates some of the menial aspects of schooling: "In traditional teaching, you spend time learning how to write a sum properly, how to lay out a jotter, how to lay out text on a page. You must do that before you can express thoughts and ideas. But with an iPad, open *Pages* and you can immediately start writing an essay or play."

This is why even if a Mac OS X tablet arrived, Fraser wouldn't switch, and he thinks the same regarding the recent slew of iPad wannabes. "There's something about the iPad's size that's just right – make it a 7-inch widescreen and the keyboard would be tiny, but the iPad's screen enables you to have a good-sized keyboard and see your content. Also, the form factor enables you to have a long-lasting battery," he says. And while iPad competitors brag about hardware, Fraser says that's irrelevant: "As good as the iPad's hardware is, it's the software that makes the device interesting in education – and I'm not just referring to big brands, but to small apps as well."

User focus

The reality of using a platform that focuses on what you can do with it rather than what's under the hood has resulted in focused pupils. Fraser says teachers throughout the school are finding that pupils now just get on with tasks, "because they have some way of working that's not just 'write it down on a piece of paper' – schooling has become more flexible and therefore more engaging and interesting." Fraser nonetheless admits that the speed of adoption and the 'invisible' nature of the technology has surprised him: "We didn't think the iPad would become embedded quite so quickly. Already, it's a problem if a child forgets their iPad – in fact, on the day of the interview, one pupil did just that and convinced his mother to drive

»

> "It helps in all subjects, especially art. It makes all of school more interesting" - **Beth**

[01] In art classes, the sheer number of iOS apps enables the iPad to be a boon for creativity - both for creating purely digital art, and also as a device for assisting with traditional media.

[02] Fraser Speirs: "Our art teacher says with the iPad, you don't need to master the brush to paint. You can go straight to the expression part, because everyone knows how to use their fingers!"

his device to the school. "It's funny, because we'd had this idea about disciplining a child by taking away their iPad, but doing that would break someone's school day, because we now operate under the assumption that digital technology is as available as paper!" Fraser adds that it's also crucial to consider the technology 'everyday' and not 'special'. "For example, it's important to not use the iPad as a reward. Technology is the way we do business – it's how we teach. It's not a reward for doing traditional education well."

Behind the scenes

Although using an iPad is simple, setting up the school's system was anything but for Fraser, and limitations in Apple's ecosystem soon became apparent. The school currently has an Xserve providing user-login services to iMacs and notebooks, and Fraser's "beloved" iMac suite was dismantled, to enable each classroom to house an iMac. Each morning, pupils log in to accounts to sync their iPads with their class's iMac. Secondary pupils each have their own library, enabling a certain amount of customisation (such as podcast subscriptions); in primary, every iPad is synchronised to the same account.

In terms of app purchase and deployment, Fraser buys apps on his computer and copies them elsewhere via Home Sharing. "This doesn't do updates, so teachers have to press 'update all' on some iPads each day," says Fraser. And due to the lack of app volume-purchasing in the UK, the system requires a certain amount of jumping through hoops, in order to ensure developers get their fair share. "No *iTunes* account can buy an app more than once, and it would take too long to create an account for each pupil. Also, no-one under 13 can have an account, unless it's set up by a parent or guardian," explains Fraser. His devised workaround is the use of 'gifts' apps to dummy email accounts at the school, which are not accessed, so the right number of apps is always purchased; nonetheless, it's clear Fraser is hopeful when he says "there are better times ahead" regarding this part of the project.

The downside

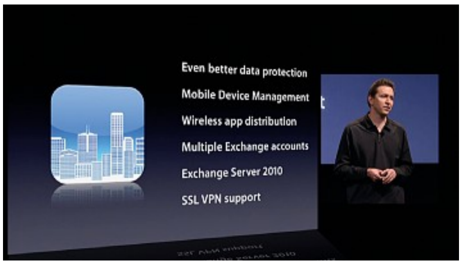
Elsewhere, problems exist. Due to leasing iPads from the Apple Store, faulty units are replaced with ease, and on-site spares ensure pupils end up with just 30 minutes of downtime while their content is synced to a replacement. (Fraser discloses the iPads have so far proven durable, and the only two major faults have been down to commonplace screen failures.) Even the thorny issue of funding never became a block. The school funds the iPads out of its general budget, and with it being an independent school, Fraser says the portion from fees that goes towards iPads is "a mathematically provable trivial fraction"; furthermore, savings made elsewhere (less printing, mostly sleeping iMacs, fewer book replacements) are already starting to offset the relatively small iPad leasing fees.

Whether there's a wider future for the iPad in the classroom remains to be seen. Fraser thinks many aspects of his project

» TECH SCHOOL / What about life after education?

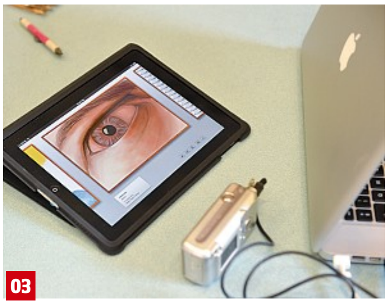
Some critics claim pupils from Fraser's school will be ill-prepared for real-world technology in their later lives. Fraser counters by highlighting how quickly technology evolves, arguing that it's impossible to predict what people will be using in even just a few years, so it's essential to concentrate purely on the best tools for education.

That said, perhaps iPads might soon be the best foundation platform, if various reports are to be believed. It's now increasingly common to find iPads being used in higher education, such as for assisting first-year medical students in studying anatomy at Stanford University. And it's also clear businesses are also looking carefully at Apple's tablet. As far back as June 2010, Apple announced that half of Fortune 100 companies were using or testing the iPad.


Even better data protection
Mobile Device Management
Wireless app distribution
Multiple Exchange accounts
Exchange Server 2010
SSL VPN support

When it comes to iOS, Apple's focus on enterprise means the iPad could become commonplace in business.

Since then, various enterprises have spoken of their interest in the device, notably business-management software leaders SAP, who are planning on rolling out 17,000 units within the next year.



» MADE ON AN iPAD / Artwork antics

At Cedars School of Excellence, iPads have become a massive hit with the pupils in the art classes. 15-year-old Megan Nixon created her own artwork entitled 'Moonlit Garden' using *Brushes*. "The pupils were learning how to use the app, familiarising themselves with the features and how to use them effectively," explains art teacher Jenny Oakley.

The artist herself enjoyed using the iPad for creating artwork. "It's great because it is so easy to learn, and you can use tools like layers to get great effects," she says. "In some ways it's easier than using paint, although you do still need some level of artistic skill to make things look right. It's also a lot tidier because the only equipment you need is your iPad!"

Oakley adds that the iPad's general 'be anything' nature means it also goes beyond being just a basic art medium: "It's a fantastic resource to support many aspects of the art curriculum as well as the development of more practical and traditional skills and understanding."

'Moonlit Garden' was created by Megan Nixon, 15, on her iPad, using the Brushes app.

> "With desktops, my classroom was built around plug sockets and network sockets. Now, it's built around learning" - **Fraser**

are scalable, to state schools as well as independents, but local authorities and a lack of administration tools are likely to be stumbling blocks. He notes that "magic money" (from election years or companies looking for favours from councils) often pays for school technology, but computers end up being mothballed when there's no funding for a refresh. Also, money disappears into systems that teachers don't ask for, such as interactive whiteboards. Therefore, it's "policy that usually dictates whether something is 'possible', rather than the benefits, drawbacks and limitations of a system". On administration tools, Fraser says Apple needs to devise something for schools with larger classes (Fraser's school has classes with as few as a dozen pupils, rather than the UK average of 25), particularly regarding remote-inspection facilities: "With a small class, I can walk around and see what everyone's doing, but that would be hard with twice as many pupils." He'd like to see Apple-enabled iPad administration and access through Apple Remote Desktop, for pulling browser histories over the air, updating apps, locking devices and capturing screens, but without a system administrator having to pay for enterprise-grade infrastructure.

Time to relax

On the software side, at least, things are better; Fraser says he's having the quietest time he's ever experienced as the 'IT guy' at school, despite having multiplied by five the number of deployed devices he's responsible for. Next he's keen to assist teachers who are less confident about using iPads by figuring out how and why some teachers are speeding ahead and helping everyone get to the same level. "I'm trying to move on the pupils' minds too – in class, someone will ask if they can go online to find something. I'll say of course – as long as it's relevant, use whatever you want."

Perhaps it will be a while before everyone's fully comfortable with iPads in the classroom, but then Fraser says that's hardly surprising, given that classrooms worldwide remain largely traditional, and technology is usually prescriptive: "We've done something that's not often tried – we brought in technology and didn't tell people how to use it".

Instead of thinking of the iPad as a digital textbook, it's become a research and creativity tool across all subjects; because of this, minds are being expanded and experiences broadened, not restricted. Once, the school focused on *iWork*, *iLife* and *Safari*, but now pupils access dozens of varied apps. "Apple pundit John Gruber once described the iPad as an app console, and I think he's right. It's something for doing work on or playing games – but it's not a generalised platform," says Fraser as the interview concludes. "That's good for me, because I want kids to learn – I don't want them to work through the computer stuff just to get to the learning." We think that should be enough to silence his critics. ●

[03] The iPad can be a creative and research tool across all subjects.

[04]The most high-tech and flexible classroom in Britain, and yet it looks like a normal classroom.

[05] As a teacher at Cedars School of Excellence, Andrew Jewell believes in the best technology for education.

[06] Fraser Speirs regards the technology as 'everday' rather than 'special'.

Q&A

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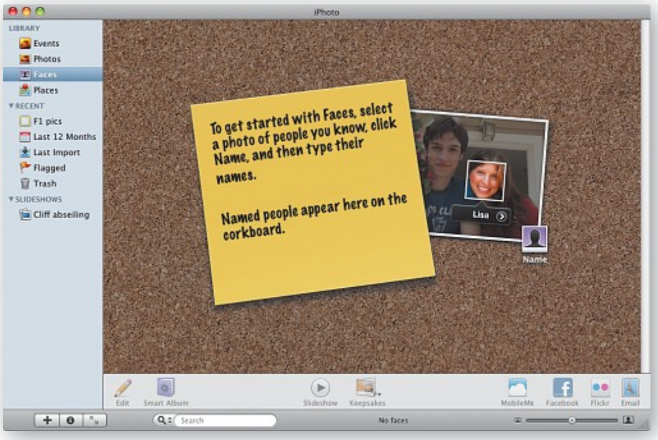
Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your query to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"How can I turn off Faces in iPhoto?"

Q I do not use the Faces and Places features of *iPhoto*. I generally do landscape photography. I noticed a tip in *MacFormat* saying you can uncheck Enable Faces in *iPhoto* preferences. I have had no luck; the dropdown menu only shows icons for General, Appearance, Events, Sharing, Web, Advanced. I also have *The Missing Manual* for *iPhoto 09*, which does not have any information about unchecking Places and Faces.

Robin Mellings

A I think you might be referring to a How To… feature in *MF223*. This was about the Faces feature in *Aperture*, not *iPhoto*. *Aperture* is *iPhoto's* older cousin and has a lot of more advanced features, aimed at more serious photographers. *iPhoto* has never had a feature to disable Faces. If you never tag anyone in any of your photos, the Faces feature barely takes up any space in the *iPhoto* library, but there is no way of preventing the application from taking the time to scan your photos for face information. On really massive libraries, this can take up an appreciable amount of time, but for most people, it's only particularly slow when you first switch to *iPhoto '09* and it runs the initial sweep through your entire library.



To get started with Faces, select a photo of people you know, click Name, and then type their names.

Named people appear here on the corkboard.

You can't disable Faces entirely in iPhoto. But if you don't use it, it's easy enough to ignore.

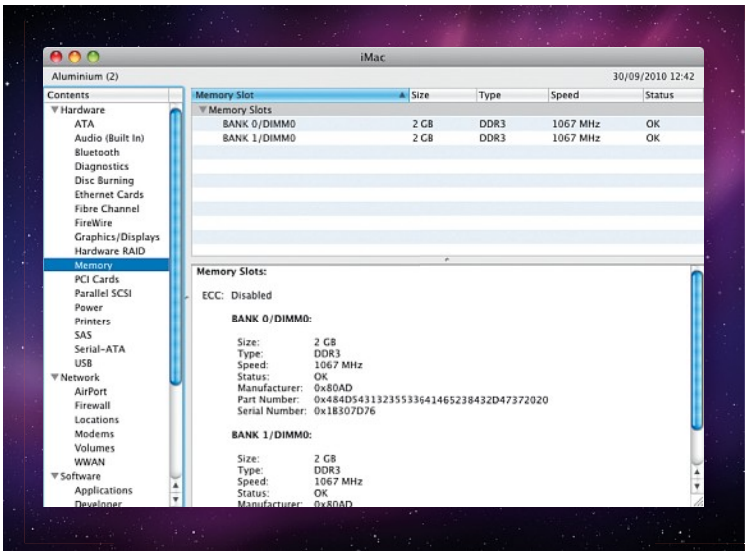
A new monitor can work out cheaper than a replacement screen for an iMac.

"Help! I have a permanent line on the screen!"

Q I have an early 2006 17-inch iMac running OS X Tiger 10.4.11. Two weeks ago a thin blue line appeared on the left-hand side of my screen, stretching right from the Apple icon to the bottom of the screen. Otherwise, my iMac seems to be working normally, I'm afraid that it could be a warning sign of something worse to come or that the actual monitor is becoming faulty.

Catherine Osborne, Co Cork, Ireland

A It's not a warning; it's irrefutable evidence of a faulty monitor. The line *is* the fault. One of the column addressing lines on the display matrix has got stuck on, so the blue sub-pixels for that column are always lit. There isn't really very much you can do about this. Replacement screens are available on eBay and through authorised Mac repair centres, but you can expect to pay a hefty £400 or £500 for one, which bumps the price right up against the cost/benefit cut-off point for repairing versus replacing with a new model, in my opinion. I think I'd be inclined to get a standalone monitor, such as the



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Memory Slot	Size	Type	Speed	Status
▼Memory Slots				
BANK 0/DIMM0	2 GB	DDR3	1067 MHz	OK
BANK 1/DIMM0	2 GB	DDR3	1067 MHz	OK

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Memory Slots:

ECC:  Disabled

      BANK 0/DIMM0:

        Size:           2 GB
        Type:           DDR3
        Speed:          1067 MHz
        Status:         OK
        Manufacturer:   0x80AD
        Part Number:    0x484D5431323553364146523843 2D47372020
        Serial Number:  0x1B307D76

      BANK 1/DIMM0:

        Size:           2 GB
        Type:           DDR3
        Speed:          1067 MHz
        Status:         OK
        Manufacturer:   0x80AD
```

Even if your RAM modules or the risers are all good, memory may not be recognised.

Samsung 2233SW. For £170, you'll get a bigger monitor and a temporary fix for your problem. You can either hide your iMac behind this monitor or use it in dual-screen format. Then, at some point in the future when you upgrade to your next Mac, you'll still hopefully have a perfectly working monitor that you can incorporate into your new setup or sell on to offset the cost of your new Mac.

"Where has half my RAM disappeared to?"

Q My 2008 vintage four-core Mac Pro was limping along with the supplied 2GB RAM, so I bought a couple more sticks. I'm particularly fussy about checking things are as they should be, so I knew for sure that the sticks – and the risers – were pushed fully home. And, it still showed 2GB (instead of the 4GB installed).

I downloaded the tech manual for the system, and found that one of the original, Apple-supplied sticks had gone bad. So, I bought another 2GB. This time round there were no LEDs lit on either riser, but the system still insists it has only 2GB installed!

I have divided the sticks, two on each riser (but I have also tried putting all four on one riser) and they are the same brand as the ones supplied by Apple.

The *System Profiler* report is only registering the module installed in the first slot of each riser (according to the tech manual, if the risers were bad, then all four LEDs would be solid red).

Sarah Balfour

A Are your memory modules the same brand or exactly the same part number as that on the Apple memory? I know that Crucial memory stopped recommending certain part numbers, even within the same manufacturer's range, because of problems they were having with reliability… The official Apple FB-DIMMS for the Mac Pro have a larger-than-normal JEDEC heatsink.

So it's just about possible that you have some more failed modules. Put just one set of 2GB in and see if it's detected, then put the other 2GB in. This is just about thoroughness though, I don't actually think your RAM has failed. I'm not even completely convinced that the original Apple RAM had failed either. 'Missing RAM' problems like this are nearly always caused by arguments between different modules on the risers. The only valid configuration for four DIMMs on a 2008 Mac Pro is to have two in the first two slots of each riser. But try swapping around which pair of DIMMs goes on which riser. It doesn't seem like it should make any difference, but it's surprising how often it does.

If this doesn't help, you should try swapping the last DIMMs you bought for a different brand because you've evidently just run up against some subtle brand incompatibility.

Prepare to 'launchd'

Bill Gallop

Way back when Mac OS X 10.4 was delivered, Apple introduced a new bit of plumbing to the Mac OS called *launchd* whose job it is to manage a number of processes that happen automatically. I'll try not to get geeky about how *launchd* works (but if you want details, visit **http://developer.apple.com/macosx/launchd.html**) but we can use it to trigger actions as a response to events that happen on your Mac. These events can include the Mac starting up, a user logging in, a file being added to a folder or even a time of day. *Launchd* can run a Mac OS X program, a single Unix command or a Unix script that means you can do pretty much anything with a bit of work.

The best way to configure *launchd* at the moment is through a program called *Lingon* (**http://sourceforge.net/projects/lingon/files/**) but the developer, Peter Borg, is no longer working on the project. That said, it still works as of Mac OS X 10.6.4, so it's still recommended.

When you open *Lingon* you'll see a pane divided into five sections: **My Agents**, which works when you are logged in; **Users Agents**, which works when any user is logged in; **Users Daemons**, which works all the time; **System Agents**, Apple-supplied jobs that work when any user is logged in; and finally, **System Daemons**, which are Apple-supplied jobs that work all the time. The last two are best left alone. Have a look at the agents and daemons you already have on your Mac and you will see what is happening in the background and how they work. I have *Safari* bookmark syncing enabled and have an agent called **com.apple.Safari** that controls syncing of *Safari's* bookmarks and runs every time *Safari's* bookmark file is modified. By looking at the command that's run, I can see it's running a unix app buried within the *Safari Mac OS X* app and this handles the synchronisation.

> *"If you don't fancy mucking around with launchd directly there are applications that use it to add functionality"*

If you don't fancy mucking around with *launchd* directly, there are apps that use it to add functionality, such as *Keep Drive Spinning* (**www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/31158/keep-drive-spinning**), which uses *launchd* to touch a hidden file on a mounted volume resulting in the drive not spinning down, useful for external hard drives that don't obey the **Energy Saver** settings to not spin down.

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of raw image files.

» QUICK TIP

Any time you see the small key icon next to a password field, you can click it to check the strength of your password and it will help you choose a better one.

"Only the first page of my PDF is displaying"

Q **I maintain a website with a graphic link to a PDF file with 30 pages. Until a few days ago this worked perfectly, but for some reason *Safari* will now only display the first page of the document. I have checked out the website on *Google Chrome* and *Firefox* and there is no problem with the PDF display. I've also checked on another iMac and again, no problem. I've looked at *Safari*'s preferences but there's nothing there relating to PDFs. I have downloaded *Adobe Reader* again in case there was a problem there.**

Anthony Twohey

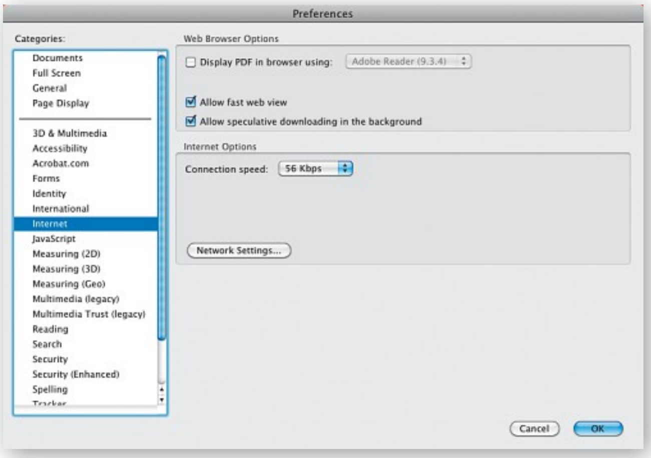
A I have three possible fixes, which might work for you. That's because this is actually three different problems that all just happen to have the same symptoms. All of these will fix the problem, but only if you have the right problem to begin with. Try them in this order:

1. Delete ~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Safari.plist and com.apple.Safari.plist.saved.

2. Right-click Applications/Safari and choose Get Info. Tick Open in 32-bit mode.

3. Open Applications/Adobe Reader (or *Acrobat* if you have that installed) and click Preferences. In the Internet section, untick the Display PDF in browser using: box.

It is, of course, possible there is a fourth problem that is not fixed by any of these solutions, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Which, hopefully, will be never.



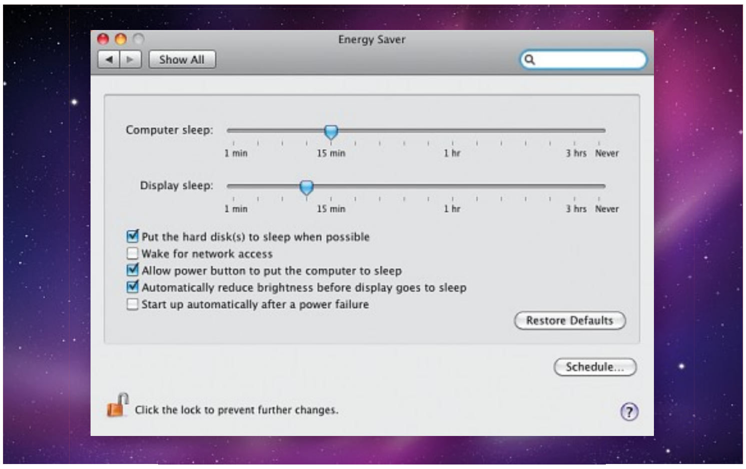
☐ Display PDF in browser using: Adobe Reader (9.3.4)

☑ Allow fast web view

☑ Allow speculative downloading in the background

Connection speed: 56 Kbps

If PDFs don't display well in Safari, let Acrobat Reader handle them instead.



Computer sleep: 15 min

Display sleep:

☑ Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible

☐ Wake for network access

☑ Allow power button to put the computer to sleep

☑ Automatically reduce brightness before display goes to sleep

☐ Start up automatically after a power failure

External disks often sleep and wake according to their own needs and whims.

"Will journaling slow down my disk at all?"

Q **I seem to be suffering from spin-up lag. I have a Maxtor One Touch 500GB external hard drive connected to my 24-inch iMac running OS X 10.6.4. I use it mostly for storage as I prefer to keep just the minimum on my boot volume. The problem comes when I open a *Finder* window or launch some applications; there is a lag where nothing happens and I can hear the disk spinning up even though (as far as I can see) there is no reason for it to do so.**

The disk is formatted as Mac OS Extended (Journaled). I know there is no need for it to be journaled; I'm getting round to changing it but wonder if maybe the problem lies in the journaling. I have also unchecked 'put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible' in Energy Saver but that hasn't affected it.

I have taken to ejecting the drive when I'm not using it and remounting it with *Disk Utility* when it's needed, but this is a bit of a pain.

Andrew Drane

» MACFIXIT TIPS / Updating iTunes will break sidebar colour

The latest update to *iTunes 10* fixed a few bugs with the initial release, but Apple did not change the gray colour scheme of the icons in the sidebar. We hope it will in the future, but for now the program will still come with the faded grey look in the sidebar.

For the initial release, people tackled this problem by editing the **iTunes.rsrc** file in the app package and adding their own colour schemes to the program.

After backing up the **iTunes.rsrc** file and updating *iTunes*, copy it back to the **iTunes Resources** directory, replacing the updated file.

Despite having colour in the sidebar again, people wondered if updating the program in the future would break the modifications, and this turns out to be the case. Any time the program is updated, Apple could include an updated **iTunes.rsrc** file, which will replace modified ones people have installed.

Despite this, you can still use your old **iTunes.rsrc** file and retain your colours if you back it up before updating *iTunes*. To do this, go to the **Applications** folder, right-click *iTunes*, and select **Show Package Contents**. From here, navigate to the **Contents/Resources** folder and copy the **iTunes.rsrc** file from this folder to the desktop. Then upgrade *iTunes* to the desired version and copy the file back to its location, replacing the updated one.

If you did not make a backup of your **iTunes.rsrc** file, you can get it from a *Time Machine* backup or reapply it using the original instructions.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

»MACFIXIT TIPS / Sometimes it's the mouse

If your computer is lagging and behaving slowly, there could be a problem with your mouse or keyboard. When input devices do not work properly, sometimes clicks take a while to register, or there may be intermittent disconnects that cause cursors to move in a jerky manner. At times, it may be similar to when systems experience slowdowns, causing people to assume their systems are running slowly when in fact their mice are malfunctioning.

If you have a wireless mouse and keyboard, regularly check the batteries; if they're low it can cause this kind of behaviour.

After years of use, mice and keyboards can accumulate dirt under buttons and in scroll wheels, the buttons can become loose or wear out, and the wires in the cord can break from being repeatedly moved around. This can all lead to seemingly slow system behaviour.

Not only can such problems lead to poor interface performance, but if the device is not communicating properly or is always initialising because of constant disconnects, then it could make other peripherals lag.

If you are experiencing problems with a slow OS interface, try changing your mouse and keyboard to see if it helps. Any USB keyboard and mouse should do, but when troubleshooting be sure to disconnect all other USB devices since malfunctions in them could also be what's leading to the problems. For wireless mice, try changing the channel if possible, or unpairing and re-pairing.

Recommendations

One mouse won't fit all comfortably. Plus there are workflow considerations such as wireless or wired, notebook – or desktop – size, portability, and button types and placements.

However, you could try a gaming mouse. These have more options to make everyday tasks feel smoother. Their high DPI and sampling rate settings can help in creative design and other tasks, so non-gamers can still benefit from the performance of the gaming input devices.

Look for smooth and crisp-clicking buttons, and a nice weight to the scroll wheel. Many gaming mice also have grip pads or rubberised coatings.

These recommendations also apply to keyboards. Some have features such as backlights and extra function keys, with others being slimmer and like Apple's aluminium keyboard.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

A Journaling is just a way for the file system to keep track of any pending write operations, in case the power fails. It saves OS X from having to run a block-by-block check of the whole disk to restore file system integrity after a crash, at the expense of a performance hit that is trivial for all but the largest, busiest drives. It has nothing to do with the spin-up delay you're seeing.

No, this is just your Maxtor drive going to sleep by itself. External disks – and indeed USB devices in general – don't always pay any attention to the Energy Saver settings and just sleep themselves based on how recently they were last accessed. If the drive is mounted then OS X will ping it briefly, when a new *Finder* window is opened, just to make sure that it should still appear in the devices list. That will startle the drive out of its doze and it will send a panicked "hang on!" message back, while it hops around on the floor, trying to get its jeans back on.

I don't really know why you want everything off your internal disk. If everything fits, I would favour keeping it all internal and then using the Maxtor as a backup disk. But if you really want to subdivide your data like this, you either need to use the Maxtor disk more than you do now, or less. If you put more frequently accessed data on it, you'll stop it from sleeping so readily. Alternatively, if you access it less frequently, the spin-up lag won't be so annoying.

glee
6. The Rhodes Not Taken
TV PG
Glee, Season 1
Will thinks the glee club desperately needs more of an edge, so he brings in his former classmate, April Rhodes (guest star Chenoweth), to spice things up. Will's plan seems to be going smoothly until he realizes he may be losing a key member of the club. Musical performances include "Somebody to Love", "Maybe This Time", "Alone" and "Last Name".
Released 9/30/09
43 minutes
Fox
HD
★★★★★ (13859)
Preview
$0.99
Rent HD
Viewers Also Rented
Lie to me
Top Gear
The Cleveland Show
Brothers & Sisters
Doctor Who
Grey's Anatomy
Castle
tv

The Apple TV isn't just about other people's pictures; you can put your own on there too.

"Why is my Apple TV rearranging all my photos?"

Q **My photos are in the right order when downloaded into *Aperture 2*. They stay in the right order as I sort or alter them. Can you please tell me why the pictures do not stay in the right order when they are synced to Apple TV?**

Brian Middleton

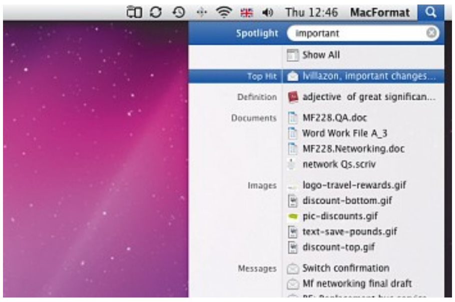
A The Apple TV seems to sort photos as they were first imported. Changing the photo name or even the file name doesn't affect this and nor does the date/time stamp of each photo. The number created for a photo is all the Apple TV cares about.

If you sort your photos as you want them in *Aperture* and manually move one of them, the sort order changes to Custom. Even if you move this one to its original position, the sort order will stay on Custom. Now when you sync the library to the Apple TV, the order should be preserved. My guess is that manual sorting forces *Aperture* to re-index the photo database.

»QUICK TIP

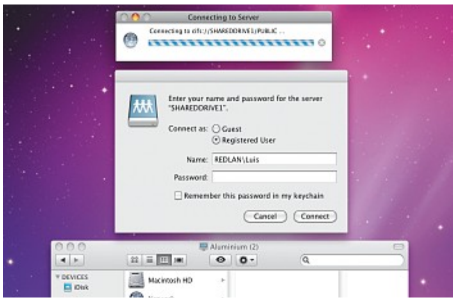
If you have two optical drives installed, pressing ⌥+⏏ will unmount and eject the second one.

HOW TO / Search networked disks


Thu 12:46
MacFormat
Spotlight
important
Show All
Top Hit
lvillazon, important changes...
Definition
adjective of great significan...
Documents
MF228.QA.doc
Word Work File A_3
MF228.Networking.doc
network Qs.scriv
Images
logo-travel-rewards.gif
discount-bottom.gif
pic-discounts.gif
text-save-pounds.gif
discount-top.gif
Messages
Switch confirmation
Mf networking final draft

01 Remote data

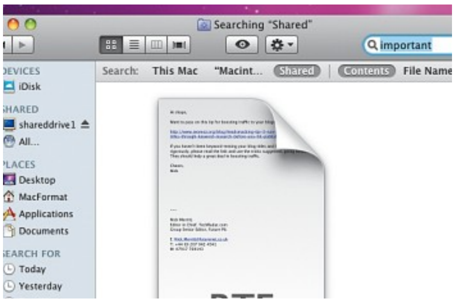
Keeping documents on network-attached storage (NAS) hard disks or USB memory sticks that are shared from another computer is a good way to transfer work. But once you have a few files, they can get lost, as Spotlight won't index networked devices.


Connecting to Server
Connecting to cifs://SHAREDDRIVE1/PUBLIC ...
Enter your name and password for the server "SHAREDDRIVE1".
Connect as:
○ Guest
● Registered User
Name:
Password:
☐ Remember this password in my keychain
Cancel
Connect
Aluminium (2)
DEVICES
iDisk
Macintosh HD

Name: REDLAN\Luis

02 Connect

This limitation of Spotlight is there for good reason. Network disks are slower to access and Spotlight has to re-index without bringing everything to a halt. There is another way to search though. First make sure you are connected to the network drive.


Searching "Shared"
important
DEVICES
iDisk
SHARED
shareddrive1
All...
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Search:
This Mac
"Macint...
Shared
Contents
File Name

03 Search

From a *Finder* window, enter your search in the box in the top-right. Select the volume name for your network disk. This is slower than Spotlight, as network disks have more latency and the disk isn't indexed. But it's quicker than searching by hand. ●

QUICK TIP

The **sudo** command isn't just for executing commands as the root user. If you type **sudo -u** <username> <command> at the command line, you can execute the command as any other valid user account on your machine.

"Why doesn't the CD drive work on my MacBook?"

Q My CD drive won't respond to disks, nor can I troubleshoot it from the *Disk Utility*. I own a 13-inch MacBook with a 2.2GHz Core 2 Duo processor and it comes with a Matshita DVD-R UJ-857E drive. I've read on forums that people with this model (January 2007) have had similar problems.

Joshua Carbajal

A The threads about this particular drive are mainly related to problems burning DVDs, not reading them, and in the cases where the problem is resolved, it normally turns out to be a software, preference list or media problem. In other words, they are just like virtually every other "I can't burn discs reliably/at all" problem. It's easy to suppose that this is an issue with a specific drive make and model, since Googling for the model name offers up a fair number of exact matches. But this drive was fitted to an awful lot of MacBooks. As a proportion of total drives installed, I don't think the error reports are especially noteworthy.

But as I say, reading discs is quite different from burning them. If your drive won't recognise *any* discs – whether DVDs or CDs – then it probably is a hardware fault. Try using a lens-cleaning kit, by all means, but I think you probably need to get the drive replaced altogether.

"Every email is gone! How can I get them back?"

Q I've just gone from ADSL Virgin.net to fibre-optic cable Virginmedia.com. This has required my first new email address in nearly 10 years. After setting everything up with some help from Virgin jiggling the settings, I eventually got going, only to find that all my virgin.net emails had disappeared. Virgin couldn't help, offering excuses about two different companies, and said that *Apple Mail* destroys the old account when a new one is created. In disbelief, I wondered "How?" and "Why?" and "Why wasn't I told?".

Reading through my *Mac OS X for Dummies*, I think I've found an explanation. "Jiggling the settings" is where it must have happened.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Genius sidebar gone in iTunes 10.0.1

The latest version of *iTunes* seems to have done away with a feature many people use regularly: the Genius sidebar. Instead of this sidebar with options for finding new songs based on the ones in your library, there is now a Ping sidebar that gives you access to the social network's ratings and purchasing options.

The Genius sidebar was used to find new songs and artist recommendations. The only feature still remaining in the *iTunes* app is the ability to create playlists based on the songs in your current library. The Genius Recommendations section is available in the store for finding music based on your library.

Despite the Genius sidebar being gone, it seems this may be an oversight instead of a replacement. For one, even though it is called the Ping sidebar, it is opened via the Genius option in the Genius section in *iTunes*. And, Apple's site still advertises the Genius Sidebar as being in *iTunes 10*.

So far there have not been any workarounds to revert the change in the program.

Meanwhile, if you would like to perform a Genius search for new music, go to the iTunes Store and click Genius Recommendations in the Quick Links section.

Apple clearly wants to promote Ping, but it would be a shame to see this done by removing useful features.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

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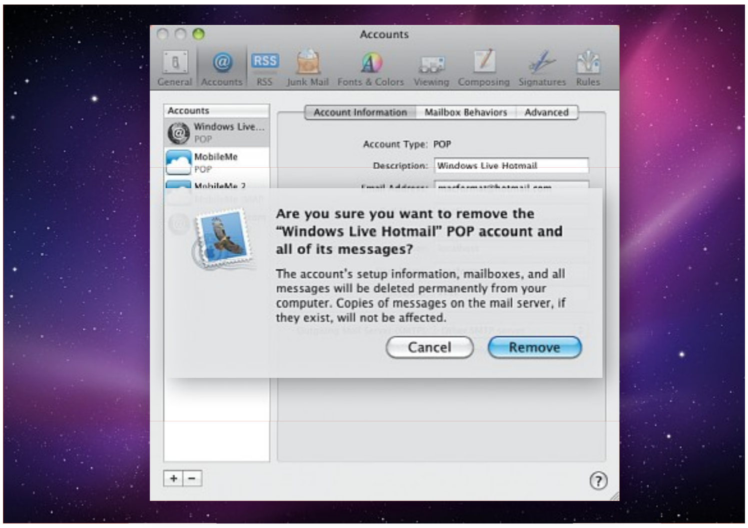


Accounts
General
Accounts
RSS
Junk Mail
Fonts & Colors
Viewing
Composing
Signatures
Rules
Accounts
Windows Live...
POP
MobileMe
POP
MobileMe 2
Account Information
Mailbox Behaviors
Advanced
Account Type: POP
Description: Windows Live Hotmail
Cancel
Remove
+
−
?

Are you sure you want to remove the "Windows Live Hotmail" POP account and all of its messages?

The account's setup information, mailboxes, and all messages will be deleted permanently from your computer. Copies of messages on the mail server, if they exist, will not be affected.

While there ought to be an undelete feature for emails, you can't say they didn't warn you.

Struggling with failed settings for 50 minutes, I'm pretty sure I must have hit the 'minus' button in *Mail Preferences* and deleted the original account! Is there any way I can get my emails back?
John Reynolds

A If you delete an email account in *Mail* Preferences, you get a confirmation dialog that is pretty unequivocal. "The account's setup information, mailboxes, and all messages will be deleted permanently from your computer." I know that it's easy to click past "Are you sure?" dialogs on autopilot, but you can't say the warning wasn't there.

If your virgin.net account was set up to use IMAP (which stores the messages at the server) rather than POP3, you may be able to retrieve your old messages. But even then it's not certain, because this is reliant on you being able to log into your old email account and Virgin may have already deleted it at their end. With POP3 though, the messages are deleted from the server as they are downloaded to your Mac. This is what backups are for. If you have it enabled, just enter *Time Machine* with *Mail* open and step back through to the point before you deleted the virgin.net account. You can restore emails from individual accounts or mailboxes, so you don't need to worry about losing messages that arrived since then.

If you have a backup that creates a single bootable image of your entire disk, rather than *Time Machine*, you can restore the ~\Library\Mail folder from the backup disk to a temporary folder and then use File > Import Mailboxes… in *Mail* to reimport just the messages from the old account.

"Seeing my work through a rose-tinted display"

Q I bought an HP1702 LCD monitor because I thought my non-Apple CRT monitor was about to pack up. The day after, a pal offered me a Power Mac G5 1.8GHz complete with 17-inch Studio display for £100. With a DVI-to-VGA adapter, I discovered I could run the two displays from the G5, which was brilliant when I used *Photoshop*. Now, however, the HP one is okay in Mirror Display mode but the screen is often pinkish or blue with varying degrees of dark. On an old PowerBook, the HP monitor works normally.

I've tried zapping the PRAM and NVRAM but it doesn't get better.
David Elder

A Now, this is a different sort of display glitch. Uniform colour tints or gradient fill effects across the screen can occasionally be caused by monitor faults, but more usually it is interference on the VGA cable or a faulty cable connection. The fact it works fine on the PowerBook doesn't narrow things down; it could still be interference between the monitors or a cable fault at the plug or socket end. Replace the VGA cable. If that doesn't help, change the DVI adapter. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

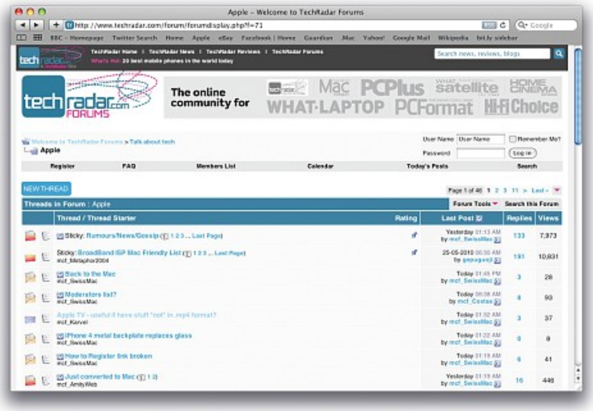
Q I have just found a crack on the lid of my MacBook, close to the left hinge. The notebook is only ten months old and I have extended cover. Does anyone know if the cracked case will be covered under warranty? Many thanks.
GJH0702 Joined: 15 Nov 2009 Posts: 27

A The old white plastic MacBook is particularly prone to casing cracks, but these usually occurred at the front edge near the trackpad, where you tend to rest your hand. All I can suggest is try your luck. With it being near the hinge, is there a chance that anyone has applied too much pressure from the top when the lid's been closed – for example, if someone has accidentally sat on the MacBook or it's been knocked or banged at that corner? These are the types of questions that Apple might ask you so you need to be prepared that they might reject your case if they suspect something like this has happened. That said, Apple are pretty generous when it comes to parts failing within warranty. I would make an appointment at a Genius Bar if you have an Apple Store nearby.

Good luck, let us know the outcome.
MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 2468 Location: Manchester, UK

Q I recently bought the brand-new iPod touch with video-recording capabilities. I recorded a video, which was a little more than a minute, and then went to email it to myself. However, when I did so I was confronted with a message about the video being too large to email and did I want to crop it? My question is: how do I get the video off the iPod touch and into my iMac?
David 65b Joined: Oct 2010 Posts: 1

A With the iPod touch plugged in and turned on, go over to your apps folder and look for *Image Capture* and start it up. Now, in *Image Capture*, you will see the touch on the left. You can now click on it and then you will see all the pictures and video's which you can import to your Mac.
mcf_defcom Joined: April 2003 Posts: 7,200



Apple – Welcome to TechRadar Forums
http://www.techradar.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=71
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The online community for
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PCPlus
satellite
HOME CINEMA
WHAT LAPTOP
PCFormat
Hi-Fi Choice
Apple
Register
FAQ
Members List
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"Apple TV remains somewhat of an enigma. On one hand, Apple seems to want to shove it under the carpet, on the other, it keeps reinventing the device."

APPLE TV, P84

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● HARDWARE ● SOFTWARE ● iPHONE APPS ● SHAREWARE ● GAMES

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Microsoft's long-awaited *Office for Mac 2011* is here, but do you need it? Does it offer enough to justify upgrading from the 2008 version? And with Apple's own *iWork* suite available for less, do you need *Microsoft Office* at all? Check out our five-page review, covering all the *Microsoft Office for Mac 2011* applications, starting on page 92.

Over in the hardware section, we cover a couple of interesting Apple products, and they're both rather special. The new-look Apple TV is smaller than before and doesn't have a hard drive, but it's also a lot cheaper. Is it the media receiver we've all been waiting for? Find out on page 84. We also look at Apple's high-end 27-inch iMac, with a solid-state drive installed as a custom option. As you'd expect, there's a big difference to the performance. Read the review on page 86.

And if that's not enough, Revo's AXiS is a great new internet/DAB radio and iPod dock, Blue Microphones Yeti USB mic puts in an excellent performance and *Parallels Desktop 6* battles for the virtualisation crown.

» OUR LOGOS

A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

» MEDIA STREAMER

Apple TV

£99 Apple's 'hobby' gets smaller, better and cheaper. But if Apple can't be bothered, should we be?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Apple A4 **HD video:** Up to 720p **Connectivity:** HDMI, 802.11g/n wireless, Ethernet **Requirements:** iTunes 10.0.1 or later **Dimensions:** 99x99x23mm

PROS & CONS

⊕ Responsive interface
⊕ Streaming works well
⊖ No online UK partner
⊖ Over-reliance on the Mac
⊖ No 1080p HD
⊖ Patchy interface

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Apple TV is reliable but remains inflexible. At least the price is cheap enough that, like Apple, you can consider it a hobby."

The Apple TV has lost its storage, three-quarters of its footprint, and its UK price has been halved. And yet Steve Jobs continues to refer to it as a "hobby."

Perhaps it's because the Apple TV remains somewhat of an enigma. It doesn't fit into Apple's main product groups – it's filed under 'iPod' in the category tree on the Apple website. On one hand, Apple seems to want to shove it under the carpet; on the other, it keeps reinventing the device.

The Apple TV has two big issues. The first is to do with the UK. In the US, the box is compatible with Netflix, providing video-on-demand TV programmes and movies for a fee. In the UK, there's no such service available. However, *iTunes* rentals are available for £3.49 for HD films and £2.49 for SD – you have 30 days to start watching and then 48 hours to finish once you've clicked to rent. The second big issue is that, inexplicably, the Apple TV only supports 720p HD.

So what else has changed? The rear of the device now only has HDMI for video, optical audio and Ethernet, though 802.11n wireless networking is built-in. Dumping other video inputs makes sense, but it will annoy some, as will a lack of phono audio outputs.

Because of the small size and weight of the box (it fits in your hand), plugging the cables in can make it tip up. Technically, though, it's excellent for the money – it has Apple's new A4 processor inside.

> *"In the US, the box is compatible with Netflix, providing video-on-demand TV programmes for a fee. In the UK, there's no such service"*

The box works seamlessly with any *iTunes 10* install with Home Sharing enabled – the sync is performed using your Apple ID. We weren't able to test the Apple TV with the company's new AirPlay technology in iOS 4.2, but hopefully by the time you read this you should be able to directly stream video from it to any iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad on the same network.

The new aluminium Apple remote is included with the Apple TV, though you can also control it with Apple's *Remote* app available for iPad, iPod touch and iPhone. The Apple TV also streams content from YouTube, Flickr and MobileMe accounts.

The inclusion of the A4 processor makes the Apple TV zip through menus and, having used various media-streaming devices, this is certainly the most responsive we've tested. The main menu is simple to use and once you're connected to the internet there is no setup, until you come to pairing your Apple TV with *iTunes* – more on that shortly.

6. The Rhodes Not Taken
Glee, Season 1

Will thinks the glee club desperately needs more of an edge, so he brings in his former classmate, April Rhodes (guest star Chenoweth), to spice things up. Will's plan seems to be going smoothly until he realizes he may be losing a key member of the club. Musical performances include "Somebody to Love", "Maybe This Time", "Alone" and "Last Name".

Released 9/30/09
43 minutes
Fox
★★★★★ (13859)

The lack of a Netflix-style service in the UK is still a gaping hole in the Apple TV.

On the menu

Apple TV has four main menus: Movies, which enables you to rent; Internet, which enables you to stream other content; Computers, enabling you to view your *iTunes* library; and Settings. The best thing about the interface is that content is presented so nicely – that is, Apple official content is presented nicely. As you'll see shortly, your own content isn't given quite such lush presentation.

The Internet offering is mixed. While the Podcasts area is great, the Radio entry is as terrible as it is in *iTunes* itself – just a basic category tree. Where is a decent search, or a Favourites option? The YouTube interface is the saving grace. It's outstanding, but we found the integration with Flickr to be sluggish.

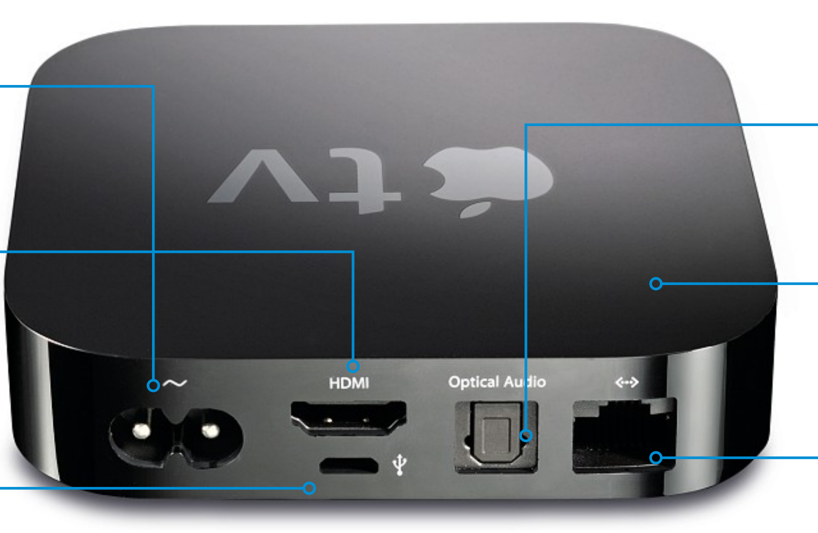
The on-screen keyboard is merely adequate for the task – there's none of the usual Apple inventiveness. But then, Apple's determination to have a simple remote is the frustration here. Is it any wonder that forthcoming

QUICK LOOK / The Apple TV's ports explained

Power
Amazingly, there's no external power brick with the new Apple TV; it's all housed inside.

HDMI
The accepted standard for connecting HDTVs. Carries audio and video.

Micro USB
Don't get excited – you can't use this for anything practical.



Optical audio
Perfect for connecting to your stereo system if you want better audio than your TV offers.

Wi-Fi
The Wi-Fi chip is inside the Apple TV, and it's 802.11a/b/g/n.

Ethernet
10/100BASE-T Ethernet, so you can connect even if you don't have Wi-Fi.

Google TV remotes will have a mini keyboard? While it's not exactly aesthetically pleasing, it's better in terms of functionality.

And so to Home Sharing. You'll need to enable this in *iTunes* on your Mac first and this works alongside your iTunes Store account. It's a real shame that the Apple TV can't stream content from an iTunes Server on a network storage device. Some have managed to get this working by hacking Apple TV boxes in the past, but it seems crazy of Apple to restrict this. Why should you have your Mac running to stream media?

Sharing content

Once you've enabled Home Sharing on your Mac running *iTunes*, simply enter the same details on your Apple TV. This process is straightforward, though we didn't appreciate the ambiguous message when we tapped in the wrong password. According to the Apple TV, the problem was either to do with a network problem *or* us typing in the wrong password. We'd have liked to know which it was!

So what does your own content look like? Well, sadly it's not exactly great. You'll need to name your files properly to work out what they are, though there is a preview shown. And it insists on filing any video content by genre. This is fine, but for any self-made movies you've dragged into *iTunes*, it just doesn't make sense. However, this treatment is more logical for music. Fortunately, actually playing video – whether from your Mac or from YouTube – is responsive.

In fact, it's the most reliable media streamer we've seen. But this reliability comes at the cost of flexibility. Other streamers can take content from NAS devices and other sources; the Apple TV needs you to have your Mac on to work effectively. It's not energy-inefficient, but the boons are reliability and speed.

It's all about speed

The Apple TV is fast, and that alone is enough to recommend it highly. The inclusion of the A4 processor is a big coup. The device is also very stable at streaming content from your Mac.

The over-reliance on rentals is a problem – Apple should make the interface far better for exploring your own content from *iTunes*, or from any NAS device or iTunes Server. Apple's AirPlay technology should improve things here, but until we actually see it working, we'll hold judgement on that. The lack of 1080p HD content is, however, unforgivable and a real limitation for *iTunes*. There are also no cables included aside from the power, so you'll need to buy them.

The Apple TV remains something of an enigma. While it works well for the most part, Apple's poor attitude towards it means that it remains undeveloped. The interface for rentals is fantastic; the interface for looking at your own stuff is poor. The speed and execution of playing media is great, the lack of 1080p is a big miss. And it's a pain to have your Mac on to stream content directly from *iTunes*. More flexibility please, Apple!

Dan Grabham

TOP 3 FEATURES / Of the new Apple TV

Centurion
Camp Scare
Cemetery Junction
Hot Tub
Kick-Ass
Dogtooth
Twelve

Slick interface

Its interface is more responsive than any media streamer we've seen. The simple remote is great for navigating, but not text input.

YouTube
Recent Searches
Dell Streak Gorilla Glass stress test
Stephen Fry's guide
TechRadar Hands on

Content options

We love the way Apple TV does YouTube, while the Podcasts browser also works brilliantly. But we would like more channels.

tv
Movies
Internet
Computers
Settings
General
Screen Saver
Audio & Video
AirPlay
Computers
Sleep Now

iTunes integration

iTunes integration is stunning. Home Sharing just works, though you'll need to have your Mac constantly on to dish out content.

>> DESKTOP COMPUTER

Apple iMac 27-inch quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Core i5 with SSD

£2,249 This year's 27-inch iMacs have a solid-state storage option, but is it worth the expense?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Quad-core Intel Core i5 **RAM:** 4GB **Hard disk:** 1TB HDD, 256GB SSD **Ports:** 1x FW800, 4x USB 2.0, SDXC card slot **Optical drive:** Slot-loading 8x SuperDrive **Display:** 27-inch LED-backlit IPS screen **Graphics:** ATI Radeon HD 5750 **Dimensions:** 51.7x65.0x 20.7cm **Weight:** 13.8kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Fast startup and shutdown
- ⊕ Apps open in an instant
- ⊕ Mac 'hangs' less often
- ⊕ Great processor and GPU
- ⊖ Expensive solid-state storage
- ⊖ SSD not user-accessible

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A stunning SSD iMac that is definitely an object of desire."

The 27-inch versions of the mid-2010 iMac refresh have a new custom configuration option. Buy online through the Apple store and you can replace the HDD with a faster, more reliable solid-state drive, or even opt for both. It's not cheap (adding a 256GB SSD alongside the 1TB HDD costs £600), but solid-state storage offers advantages over its disk-based counterpart. This top-of-the-range iMac also features a quad-core Intel Core i5 processor, 4GB of SDRAM and an ATI Radeon HD 5750 graphics card. The 256GB solid-state drive is its only customisation; it's otherwise identical to the Core i5 iMac.

Using a solid-state drive as a boot volume has its benefits. Our test iMac started up in 25 seconds, and shutdown was almost instant. OS X apps such as *iPhoto*, *iCal*, *Address Book* and *Safari* opened before their Dock icons had time for a single bounce. It also proved its worth in our benchmarking tests. Using *Xbench* to check the CPU and hard disk, it more than doubled the 27-inch 3.2GHz Core i3 iMac's score. This is a sterling result, given that the difference between the 3.06GHz 21.5-inch iMac and the 3.2GHz 27-inch model was only just under 24%. Testing the two hard drives using *QuickBench*, we found the SSD's average random write speeds were only marginally faster than the HDD, but its read speeds were almost five times as quick. And you do notice its nippiness in use.

This machine proves its worth in more ways than one.

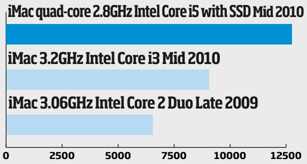
> *"Buy online through the Apple store and you can replace the HDD with a faster, more reliable solid-state drive, or even opt for both"*

We've a few moans though; if you buy a 27-inch iMac without a pre-installed SSD, it won't have the fixtures required to add one later. Considering how expensive solid-state drives are, and how prices are likely to fall, this is a pity. In fact, 27-inch iMacs should have a user-accessible drive port, enabling users to add or replace storage drives themselves. Changing the hard drive on a MacBook or MacBook Pro is easy. Would it be so difficult to allow similar access with the large-screen iMac? Like the other models in the mid-2010 iMac refresh, the Core i5 has no Blu-ray and no matte screen option.

When the iMac was first introduced 12 years ago, its hard drive was a mere 4GB. Imagine what SSDs will be like in 12 years' time.

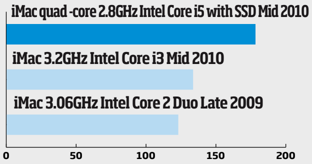
Ian Osborne

>> BENCHMARKS / How do the machines stack up?



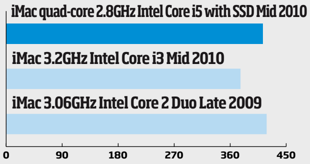
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR.

REVO
2:44 pm 7 Oct 2010
STEREO
DAB
BBC Radio 2
Pop Music
Now playing: Everywhere I Go by Chris De Burgh.
DAB
AXiS

You can't fault Revo's AXiS multi-format radio for style.
Photography: Joe Branston

>> DAB/INTERNET/FM RADIO

Revo AXiS

£200 Is Revo's latest multi-format radio station a worthy successor to the iBlik?

Revo's AXiS offers DAB, internet and FM radio, streaming media from your Mac, a docking station for your iPod or iPhone, Last.fm (a year's subscription is included) and a clock with two alarms. It's fully shielded, so there's no need to put your iPhone into Airplane Mode. You can wirelessly connect to your home network, while stereo RCA ports enable you to integrate your AXiS into an existing stereo system and a 3.5mm AUX in port means you can connect non-Apple audio devices. There's even a composite video out for iPod/iPhone video.

The AXiS is modelled in a stylish matte black, and features just two face controls; the power button and a large volume dial. Everything else is controlled within the 3.5-inch TFT touchscreen. Setting up and connecting to your network is easy, and the on-screen menu controls are clear. The touchscreen itself could be a little more responsive, but you soon get used to it. Navigating through the thousands of available internet stations is simple enough. They're organised by both location and genre, there are dedicated menus for both UK and BBC stations and you can designate favourites for easy return access. For some reason, there's no remote control in the box. And although you can buy one, that's an extra £10 (and the remote itself appears to offer very limited controls).

> *"Setting up and connecting to your network is easy, and the on-screen menu controls are clear"*

Overall sound quality is very good. It won't please hardcore audiophiles (but remember you can integrate it into your existing system), but it's clear, warm, rich and complete given it only has one driver. A rear-facing bass port keeps the bottom end solid without swamping the mix, and although it doesn't have a colossal amount of volume, it can get reasonably loud without distorting.

The AXiS is a worthy addition to Revo's respected radio range. Although not suitable enough to fill a party venue, it's an ideal bedside or living room radio. We hope its next release gets a more comprehensive remote… in the box.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Revo Technologies Ltd
www.revo.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: 1x58mm **Maximum output:** 8W **Frequency response:** 90Hz to 20kHz **Inputs:** DAB, FM, internet radio, streaming media, AUX in **Dimensions:** 22x15x12.5cm

PROS & CONS

⊕ Very easy to set up
⊕ Intuitive menu system
⊕ Nicely rounded sound
⊖ No remote control in the box

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Ease of use and a good sound makes for an excellent audio package."

>>PROJECTOR

Casio XJ-A135

£870 It's not cheap, but is it worth it?

In spite of the laser technology, the XJ-A135 isn't ideal for club light shows.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Casio
www.personalprojector.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 1024x768 **Light output:** 2,000 ANSI lumens **Light source:** Solid state **Weight:** 2.3kg **Dimensions:** 43x300x210mm

PROS & CONS

⊕ Small and nimble
⊕ Robust design
⊖ Average performance
⊖ Bulb replacement costs unstated

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"An impressive projector, but the technology is still a tad too expensive."

Filament bulbs are big, hot and fragile, so any projector that uses a solid-state alternative has to be ahead of the game. Casio's new upscale projector series uses a combined LED and laser light source, which is not only bomb-proof (more or less) but it also lasts much longer than a bulb. And at roughly A4 size, it's small and thin. But at 2.3kg, it doesn't weigh any less than usual.

If you run a projector all day, most days, bulb replacement costs can be roughly equivalent to buying a new projector every year. A typical filament sets you back £250 to £300, and most are rated at 2,000 to 3,000 hours. The Casio is guaranteed for three years (or 6,000 hours). So the total cost of ownership is lower.

Or it should be. But there's a catch. You can replace a filament bulb with a screwdriver. You can also carry a spare for emergencies. But the Casio has to be sent back to base. And replacement costs aren't yet available, so total cost of ownership remains something of a gamble.

In performance terms, this is a middle-of-the-road design. 2,000 ANSI lumens isn't pushing any brightness records, but you can get away with using this unit in an office environment on all but the sunniest of days. Contrast is so-so, with no cinematic deep blacks even after adjustments. But with fine-tuning, colours can be made very natural, so this is a good choice for business graphics and photo previews. The included software suite offers Wi-Fi operation, but it's Windows only…

Overall, this new technology is worth getting more information about, especially for professional use.
Richard Wentk

>>COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA

Samsung WB2000

£291 A compact with true 1080p credibility

The analogue dials on top are pure gimmick, but the photos and video are pure quality.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Samsung
www.samsung.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 10mp **Lens:** 4.3-21.5mm f/2.4-5.8 **File formats:** JPEG, raw, H.264 **Memory card formats:** SD/SDHC **Dimensions:** 99.5x59x21.7mm **Weight:** 153.3g

PROS & CONS

⊕ Superb image quality
⊕ 1080p video
⊕ Good creative control
⊖ Some handling issues

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A great standalone cam or a partner to an SLR, with fine video to boot."

These days, you can spend less than £100 and bag yourself a digital camera that takes good photographs. So is there a point to a compact digital camera that costs three times as much? Well, yes.

We've become real fans of Samsung cameras, and this model has only bolstered that feeling. It looks beautiful, it's slim and well-built, and, most important of all it takes terrific photos. It also shoots beautiful video.

It's only in the last year that compact cameras' video abilities have been anything more than a product marketing check-box, but how far we have come! The WB2000 shoots full HD (1080p) video, which is stunning. Even better, you can shoot a full-res still even in the middle of recording video. There are a few high-speed video options too, which, when played back, show the action in slow-mo, but you'd do well not to get too excited about them; even at the fastest, 240FPS option, video size and quality drop dramatically. The ability to shoot in raw as well as JPEG is welcome, and makes the WB2000 handy for SLR-toting photographers who might not want to lug their full kit around. However, *iPhoto*, *Aperture* and *Lightroom* currently don't support the WB2000 raw.

Handling is generally good, and we like Samsung's menu system. But we struggled to remember there was a separate 'shutter' for video, plus the shooting mode button is confusing.
Christopher Phin

The Yeti doesn't look much like a hairy beast, but that's to its credit.

Photography by Joseph Branston

>> USB MICROPHONE

Blue Microphones Yeti

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£129 A high-quality stereo microphone for the podcasting generation, but with retro charm

Forget what you think you know about sound recording: the traditional home microphone is dead. Never again should a mini-jack plug have to run its awful buzzing signal into your Mac's mic socket. The digital domain of USB is here – and it's better.

Blue's Yeti, the beastly sequel to its groundbreaking Snowball USB mic, exudes a retro charm completely at odds with its next-gen makeup. The heavy 50s-style metal construction – complete with a brilliantly designed large-footprint table stand – lends it an air of seriousness that its little brother (a white plastic orb) missed.

One advantage of its 5v-powered USB makeup is that the Yeti is able to put many of the most important recording controls on board. There's a built-in gain dial, essential if you're recording quiet or distant sounds and useful for preventing later processing. It also features a volume knob for the live-monitoring headphone amp, a mute button to pause recording, and the most important control of all: the pattern switch, which selects between the four operating modes of its triple-capsule array.

The Yeti's quality was clear and full in every test we gave its multiple patterns, though you may want to invest in a pop-shield for the best possible results. Its omnidirectional mode captured a room full of chatting people clearly and loudly, the cardioid and bidirectional patterns were pleasingly precise (although you'll need to lean close to the mic to get the best from them), and its stereo pattern is perfect for podcasting, neatly separating multiple voices gathered around a table.

> *"The heavy 50s-style metal construction lends it an air of seriousness that its little brother missed"*

Whether that range of functionality does enough to counter the Yeti's one obvious disadvantage – the fact that you're tethered to a single mic rather than a multi-head setup – is a matter of taste. But bear in mind that an external mixer and the relevant microphones to replace its stereo function will cost a lot more than the Yeti, and this is an unquestionably high-quality mic (THX certified, no less) at a ridiculously reasonable price.

Alex Cox

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Blue
www.bluemic.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Sample Rate: 48KHz
Capsules: 3x14mm condenser
Frequency Response: 20Hz - 20KHz **Sensitivity:** 4.5mV/Pa
Max SPL: 120db

PROS & CONS

- + Tremendous sound quality
- + Multiple recording patterns
- + Plug and play - no installation
- + Fantastic for the price

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you want to record vocal sounds, you should buy a Yeti. It's that simple."

Words: Ian Osborne

>> 500GB HARD DISK

Hitachi LifeStudio Mobile Plus

£88 www.lifestudio.com

01 Hitachi's LifeStudio drives are aptly described as 'the hard drive redefined'. The bundled management suite lets you find, organise and share digital content located on your computer and LifeStudio drive. You can access online content such as games, news, music and videos, and auto-sync with the removable USB key, all using a gorgeous 3D browser. The USB key uses a MicroSD card, which can be upgraded. This mobile model is housed in a caddy, so the drive can be removed for transportation. Note: Intel only.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Excellent features, but not an ideal choice if you just want some dumb storage."

>> HOMEPLUG AV

Devolo dLAN 200 AVpass

£120 www.devolo.co.uk

02 You can get BBC iPlayer on Freesat HD, but what if your TV and Freesat box aren't close to your router? Rather than trailing an Ethernet cable through the house, a HomePlug AV adapter kit uses your home's electrical wiring to extend your network. Devolo's dLAN 200 AVpass Kit is certified by Freesat for streaming iPlayer and future internet services. Each plug has a pass-through three-pin socket for plugging in another electrical device; it's compatible with other HomePlug AV devices and has an automatic power-saving mode when on standby too.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A very convenient way of getting your Freesat box hooked up to the network."

>> iPAD STAND

Twelve South Compass

£35 www.twelvesouth.com

03 There are dozens of iPad stands around, but not all are convenient enough to carry around with you. Compass for iPad from Twelve South answers this complaint, with a stand that folds down into a pocket-sized package. Compass for iPad is forged from solid steel, and build quality is very high. It can hold your iPad at a shallow angle for typing or more upright for media viewing, whether in portrait or landscape orientation. Any area that might scratch your Apple tablet is coated in silicone. When stored in its carry case, it's still small enough for your pocket.

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Robust, attractive and convenient, this one's a definite design win."

>> iPHONE CASE

EWA-Marine Handy&Safe iWPC

£20 www.ewa-marine.com

04 You can keep your iPhone safe and dry with this waterproof pouch that doesn't stop you using your phone. Even so, we have to question the wisdom of splashing about with a nylon cord around your neck. Getting the phone into and out of the pouch is an awkward, fiddly task, but when it's correctly housed, it's safe and sound. There's a section of clear plastic covering the camera lens for waterproof photography, which is a nice touch, and you can continue to use the touchscreen and to make calls.

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"It succeeds in keeping your iPhone safely dry, but it's still awkward to use."

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99 Snow Leopard secrets
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>> WORD-PROCESSING SOFTWARE

Microsoft Word 2011

£120 (or from £90 as part of Office) It's neater and quicker, but how much is actually brand new?

CONTACTS

Developer: Microsoft
www.microsoft.com/mac

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later **Processor:** Intel **RAM:** 1GB **Hard disk space:** 1.8GB **Display:** 1280x800 **Other:** Safari 5 recommended

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Useful Ribbon interface
- ⊕ Better search and sharing
- ⊕ Elegant Full Screen view
- ⊕ Built-in equation editor
- ⊖ No word count in Full Screen
- ⊖ Unnecessary niggles remain

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A well thought-out refresh. For existing users, though, it doesn't offer a huge amount to justify its asking price."

The first things you'll notice about the new *Office* are its smart new icons, which are added automatically to your Dock. The second is how fast the apps launch when you click one.

Word 2008 took 12 seconds to display a window on our 3GHz Core 2 Duo iMac, and 20 seconds to let us start typing. *Word 2011*, once we'd turned off its welcome screen, was ready each time within four seconds. We're not sure how Microsoft has managed to do this (it's not by switching to 64-bit code, which it still hasn't got round to) but the responsiveness continues. Selecting a font is less accident-prone: the menu shows previews, or auto-completes if you enter the name manually. You can choose from an even wider range of decent templates, and an expanded set of Themes can be applied instantly to change fonts, styles and colours.

Find your way around

It's this kind of incremental improvement that characterises *Word 2011*. There's a Spotlight search box at the top of each window; any phrase you enter is instantly highlighted wherever it appears. A new sidebar brings together tools to help navigate your pages, and scientists will appreciate the comprehensive equation editor. Bugs have also been fixed – although we don't want to speak too soon, we haven't seen any sign of the scroll glitch that used to regularly scramble *Word's* display.

Switch to Draft view, however, and the letter spacing now goes oddly awry, distracting from your typing. This needs sorting out. We found consolation in the new Full Screen option, which blacks out the rest of the screen to let you edit in peace. It looks much better than in *Office 2010 for Windows*, but where's the word count? An annoying oversight in an extremely neat feature.

> *"A new sidebar brings together tools to help navigate your pages, and scientists will appreciate the equation editor"*

In other respects, this version more closely resembles its PC sibling. Microsoft has replaced the awkward stack of toolbars of *Office 2008* infamy with the Ribbon – a tabbed menu that makes the controls you need easier to find. But *Office 2007* seems to have been the model – *Office 2010's* File tab, with its handy summary of document properties, is absent. Reach up to the equivalent on the Mac OS X menu bar and you'll still find some new options, including Reduce File Size, but not OpenDocument (ODF) support. *Word 2010 for Windows* lets you choose this format as the default, in place of Microsoft's unpopular .docx variety. Mac users don't get it, sadly.

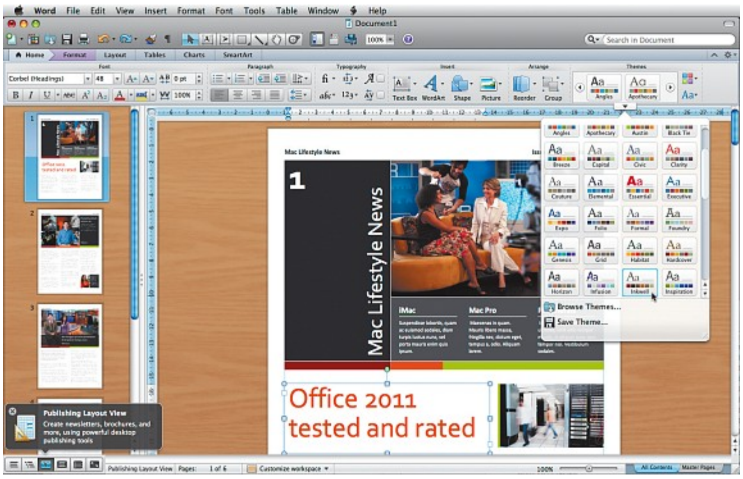
Spread the Word

What we do share with Windows users is the ability to, well, share. Save a document to your SkyDrive (Microsoft's equivalent of iDisk) and you can 'co-author' it simultaneously with other users. Along with *Excel* and *PowerPoint*, *Word* also gets a free cut-down *Word* Web App that runs in any web browser. Its features are limited, but useful. It's a shame the Web Apps don't work in iOS; all you get is a simplified preview.

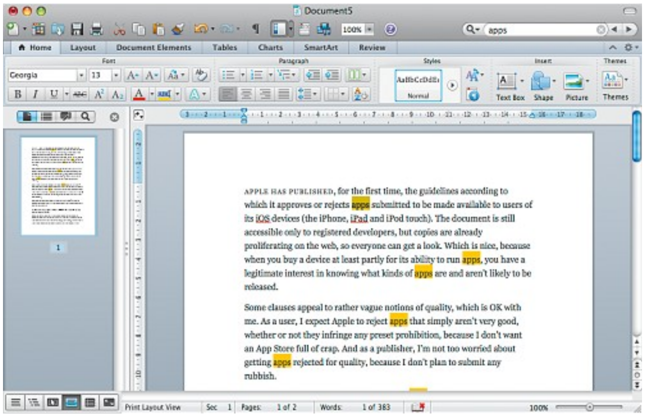
Microsoft says file compatibility between Windows and Mac has been improved. We found, though, that *Office for Mac 2011* wasn't always compatible with *Office for Mac 2008*. Text cut and pasted between the two kept some elements of formatting but lost others.

Overall, *Word 2011* feels less estranged from the Windows version yet very Mac-like, and that's quite an achievement in itself.

Adam Banks


Word File Edit View Insert Format Font Tools Table Window Help
Document1
Home Format Layout Tables Charts SmartArt
Mac Lifestyle News
1
Mac Lifestyle News
iMac
Mac Pro
Office 2011
tested and rated
Publishing Layout View
Create newsletters, brochures, and more, using powerful desktop publishing tools
Browse Themes...
Save Theme...
Publishing Layout View Pages: 1 of 6

Applying fonts, styles and themes is now more immediate, with results instantly visible.


Document5
apps
Home Layout Document Elements Tables Charts SmartArt Review
Georgia 13
Normal
Text Box Shape Picture Themes
Print Layout View Sec 1 Pages: 1 of 2 Words: 1 of 383 100%

APPLE HAS PUBLISHED, for the first time, the guidelines according to which it approves or rejects apps submitted to be made available to users of its iOS devices (the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch). The document is still accessible only to registered developers, but copies are already proliferating on the web, so everyone can get a look. Which is nice, because when you buy a device at least partly for its ability to run apps, you have a legitimate interest in knowing what kinds of apps are and aren't likely to be released.

Some clauses appeal to rather vague notions of quality, which is OK with me. As a user, I expect Apple to reject apps that simply aren't very good, whether or not they infringe any preset prohibition, because I don't want an App Store full of crap. And as a publisher, I'm not too worried about getting apps rejected for quality, because I don't plan to submit any rubbish.

A search box in the window bar lets you find all instances of a phrase instantly, then cycle through them.

>> SPREADSHEET SOFTWARE

Microsoft Excel for Mac 2011

£120 (or from £90 as part of Office) The classic number-crunching app gets a new look

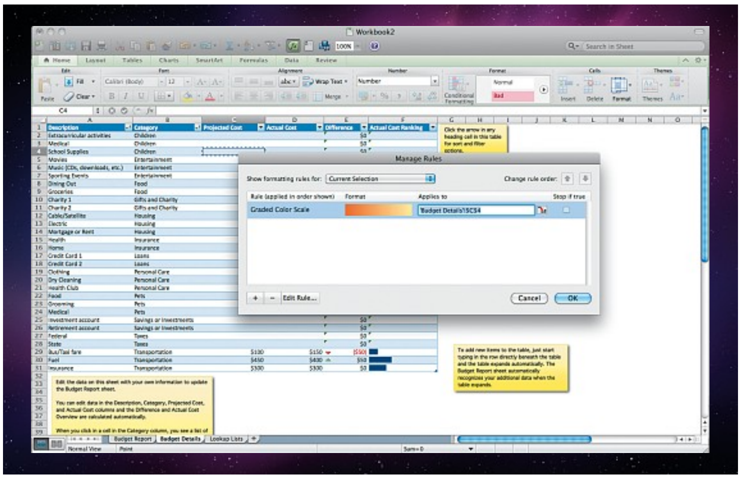
There are generally two kinds of spreadsheet users: the first uses spreadsheets as a simple database, creating lists of tabulated data, which they then need to reorder and sort. The other kind, though, is a very different breed – serious number crunchers who need, and use, powerful mathematical functions.

Excel 2011 manages to contain plenty that will please most folk. The most visible of these features is the smart revamped interface, which does away with the endless array of floating palettes that we've come to love (or loathe) in favour of the unified Ribbon interface that adorns all the *Office* apps. The Ribbon is a context-sensitive bar that displays options according to what you're doing at the time. This is integrated into the main window, so gone are the floating palettes, and you can collapse the Ribbon if you want some extra workspace.

There are other interface improvements, too. For example, there's a new Workbook Gallery that appears when you launch the app. This includes templates on your Mac and access to online templates too.

> *"The fact you have direct access to an online library of templates, means this feature beats the equivalent in Apple's Numbers"*

The fact that you have direct access to an online library of templates, which can grow over time, means this feature beats the equivalent in Apple's *Numbers* spreadsheet.



Show formatting rules for: Current Selection

Rule (applied in order shown): Graded Color Scale — Applies to: Budget Details!C4

Click the arrow in any heading cell in this table for sort and filter options.

To add new items to the table, just start typing in the row directly beneath the table and the table expands automatically. The Budget Report sheet automatically recognizes your additional data when the table expands.

Edit the data on this sheet with your own information to update the Budget Report sheet.

You can edit data in the Description, Category, Projected Cost, and Actual Cost columns and the Difference and Actual Cost Overview are calculated automatically.

When you click in a cell in the Category column, you see a list of

Get to grips with the formatting and it will improve your user experience considerably.

Helpful updates

Previous updates to the Mac version of *Excel*, Microsoft's flagship spreadsheet, have largely concentrated on users who use the app for basic everyday tasks. The Lists feature of *Excel* debuted on the Mac, and remains unmatched in terms of being a simple way to create, sort and order lists of data.

Excel 2011, though, contains plenty of bits and pieces that will surprise and delight the real number crunchers. Probably the most important feature is the return of Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), which essentially means that proper support for macros, dumped after *Office 2004*, is now back.

If you're a power user, and particularly one who works in a cross-platform environment, this is more than enough reason to invest in *Excel 2011*.

Power users will also appreciate the useful changes to conditional formatting, which loses its occasionally restrictive limit of three rules per cell. And the conditional formatting editor has had an update that makes it easier to use for anybody who is just starting with this powerful feature.

With this version, Microsoft has also chosen to meet the challenge of online office suites that are offered by the likes of Google head-on. You can now save your documents from *Excel* directly over to Windows Live SkyDrive, which is a free service with 25GB of storage that lets you store documents online and then edit them using web-based applications. The web version of *Excel* doesn't match the feature set of the desktop version, as you'd guess, but it is fantastic for quick edits and – importantly – preserves the features of any document that it doesn't directly support.

The verdict

Excel 2011, then, is an impressive upgrade to what was already a solid and established product. The new-and-improved interface removes the clutter of multiple palettes, while the power-user features mean that, at long last, Microsoft *Excel for Mac 2011* is the rightful match of its much-applauded Windows cousin.

Ian Betteridge

CONTACTS

Developer: Microsoft
www.microsoft.com/mac

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later **Processor:** Intel **RAM:** 1GB **Hard disk space:** 1.8GB **Display:** 1280x800 **Other:** Safari 5 recommended

PROS & CONS

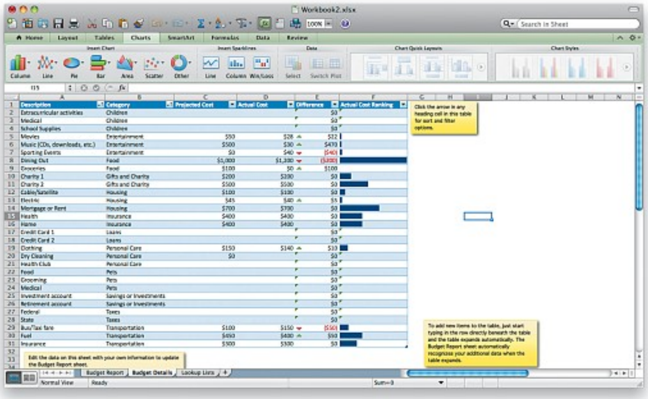
- ⊕ New, cleaner interface
- ⊕ Macro support is back via VBA
- ⊕ Online editing with Excel Web
- ⊕ Built-in document sharing
- ⊕ Better formatting support
- ⊖ Not everyone loves the Ribbon

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Has plenty of updated tools and features, not forgetting the cleaner new interface."

The shiny revamp will please all Excel fans new and old.



>> PRESENTATION SOFTWARE

Microsoft PowerPoint 2011

From £90 (as part of Office) What do you add to the presentation app that already does it all?

CONTACTS

Developer: Microsoft
www.microsoft.com/mac

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later
Processor: Intel **RAM:** 1GB
Hard disk space: 1.8GB
Display: 1280x800
Other: Safari 5 recommended

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Even more animation options
- ⊕ Better handling of media
- ⊕ Scripting and collaboration tools
- ⊕ Ribbon interface works well
- ⊖ May feel unfamiliar at first
- ⊖ Still no font embedding

VERDICT

★★★★☆

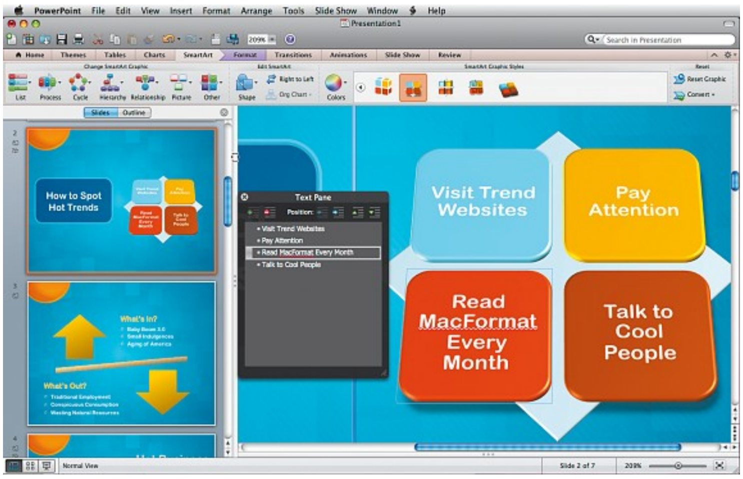
"It's very different from Apple's stripped, shiny Keynote, but PowerPoint is leaving its boring business image behind."

As with *Word*, *PowerPoint 2011* launches so fast you forget to start waiting for it, and the new Ribbon interface does a great job of putting all the features within easy reach. Flicking between the tabs quickly reveals all the elements and effects you can use to build a show. The impressive range of transitions and SmartArt graphics will largely be familiar to *Office 2008* users, but the Animations tab provides more and smarter ways to make text and graphics appear, disappear, and jiggle about in between. Once you get the hang of applying these to objects, making things happen in the right order, and ungrouping SmartArt where appropriate to animate individual items, it's gratifyingly easy to create slides that Al Gore would be proud of.

There's also better control over video within shows, reducing the need to break out of *PowerPoint*. Clips are embedded in your presentation rather than linked, which avoids 'missing media' screw-ups but can make for very large files. *Flash* video still isn't supported, even though the Windows version handles it.

Power problem-solving

The more complex your slides become, the harder it can be to wrangle overlapping elements. *PowerPoint 2011* has a radical solution: select Reorder Objects (under Arrange on the Format tab) and everything on a slide fans out in 3D, a bit like Cover Flow. You can then drag an item to move it forward or backward in the stacking order. It's cute, but you can't select or resize objects in this view, so you may still have to drag them to the front, edit them, then put them back.


PowerPoint File Edit View Insert Format Arrange Tools Slide Show Window Help
Presentation1
Home Themes Tables Charts SmartArt Format Transitions Animations Slide Show Review
How to Spot Hot Trends
Text Pane
Visit Trend Websites
Pay Attention
Read MacFormat Every Month
Talk to Cool People
What's In?
What's Out?
Normal View
Slide 2 of 7

The display updates as you drag the zoom slider or window divider, speeding up your work.

We were disappointed to find that fonts still can't be embedded; nor can *PowerPoint 2011* read-only fonts be embedded in files from the Windows version. So unless your show will only ever be played from your own Mac, you'll need to stick to the core Microsoft fonts. If PDFs can preserve fonts across platforms, Microsoft should be able to manage it. Specially for Mac users, though, is the option to send your slides to *iPhoto*, if you prefer to build your show there.

> *"Once you get the hang of using the Animations tab, it's gratifyingly easy to create slides that Al Gore would be proud of"*

Like *Excel*, *PowerPoint* has regained the support for VBA macros that was dropped in *Office 2008*, and includes the Visual Basic Editor. Oddly, though, saving files in the default PPTX format strips out any macros; you have to use special formats to store them. Presentations containing macros are also excluded from co-authoring, the new function that lets you save files 'in the cloud' via Microsoft SkyDrive (or a SharePoint server) and edit them simultaneously with other users.

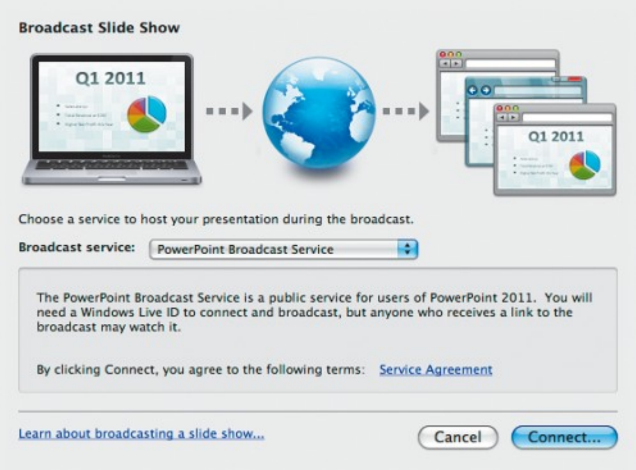
Clever collaboration

As long as your show is macro-free, this is an interesting way to collaborate. And when it comes to presenting, you can instantly 'broadcast' your show on the web, visible to any Mac or Windows PC via Microsoft's servers, as long as your audience can manage without audio, movies and fancy transitions. There's also a *PowerPoint* Web App, which isn't capable of building a show from scratch but could be a life-saver for last-minute tweaks.

Users may be put off at first by some disorienting user interface changes, such as the omission of the Formatting palette. But with even slicker effects topping enormous flexibility, there's plenty to like in *PowerPoint 2011*.

Adam Banks

Broadcast Slide Show enables you to present your PowerPoint creation over the internet.



Choose a service to host your presentation during the broadcast.

Broadcast service: PowerPoint Broadcast Service

The PowerPoint Broadcast Service is a public service for users of PowerPoint 2011. You will need a Windows Live ID to connect and broadcast, but anyone who receives a link to the broadcast may watch it.

By clicking Connect, you agree to the following terms: Service Agreement

Learn about broadcasting a slide show...

>> EMAIL SOFTWARE

Outlook 2011

From £190 (as part of Office) Email, contacts, calendar and Exchange support with Outlook

Almost 10 years after its introduction in *Office X*, Microsoft has replaced *Entourage* with *Outlook*, a familiar name from the world of Windows. But there's more than just a change of name at work here. *Outlook 2011* is a completely new application, rebuilt from the ground up in Cocoa. Since this is the future of Mac application development, starting from scratch will enable Microsoft to bring new Mac OS X technologies into *Outlook* as Apple adds them.

It has also given Microsoft the chance to update the interface. It's a clean, modern look and feels a definite improvement over its predecessors. Email, contacts and calendars all use Microsoft's Ribbon interface, which places a context-sensitive row of buttons along the top of individual windows. It was a controversial change on the Windows version, but it succeeds in presenting the maximum number of options with the minimum fuss, although it can sometimes leave you wondering where a particular one is.

> *"It has given Microsoft the chance to update the interface. It's a clean, modern look and feels an improvement over its predecessors"*

Outlook supports POP, IMAP and Exchange 2007 (and later) email, and setting up an account is quick and easy. If you're using an email service that it knows about, such as MobileMe or Gmail, there's little you need to do other than put in your email address and password.

Conversation view

Outlook also enables you to group messages from the same conversation together, regardless of who they're from. Even though it's meant to look at more than just the message's subject line, in our experience, it didn't. Cue panic as we thought we'd included our best friend and our father-in-law in the same 'Cheers'-entitled message. After this, we quickly disabled the Conversation view mode.

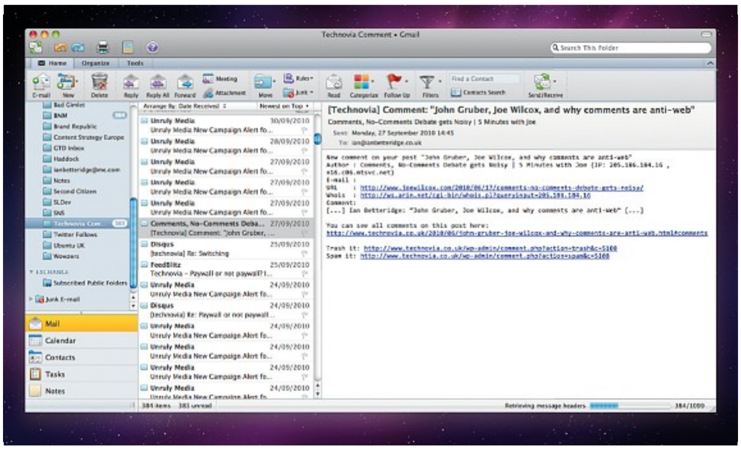
Searching your messages has been improved, since you don't have to specify whether to search a particular field any more, though you can narrow it down if you wish.

Changes have been made to Calendars, too. You can, at long last, create multiple calendars, and it retains support for more than one category within calendars too – a powerful combination. Calendars can be local or shared via Exchange, but this is the only method of sharing – there's no support for CalDAV, which makes using *Outlook* with Google or MobileMe's calendars a pain. We also wondered why there are now two types of event: meetings (which have invitees) and appointments (which don't).

Another welcome change is the passing of *Entourage's* single database. *Outlook* now uses files and folders for each message, contact and event. There's still a database, which acts like an index to everything, but if it becomes corrupted, *Outlook* will quickly rebuild it from the existing files, and nothing should be lost. This lack of a big database should also mean that *Time Machine* doesn't need to create a new copy of a gigantic file every time you receive new email messages, thereby speeding up your backups.

Outlook is certainly a big improvement over *Entourage*. It's faster than its predecessor, but still lags behind *Mail*. The interface is cleaner, and for anyone coming from Windows it's close enough to *Outlook* on that platform to be familiar. Overall, it feels good for a first version, although there are the inevitable minor 1.0 bugs.

Ian Betteridge



Setting up is quick to do, leaving you to gossip, work or catch up with family in a flash.

CONTACTS

Developer: Microsoft

www.microsoft.com/mac

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later **Processor:** Intel **RAM:** 1GB **Hard disk space:** 2.5GB **Other:** Exchange 2007 required for Exchange support

PROS & CONS

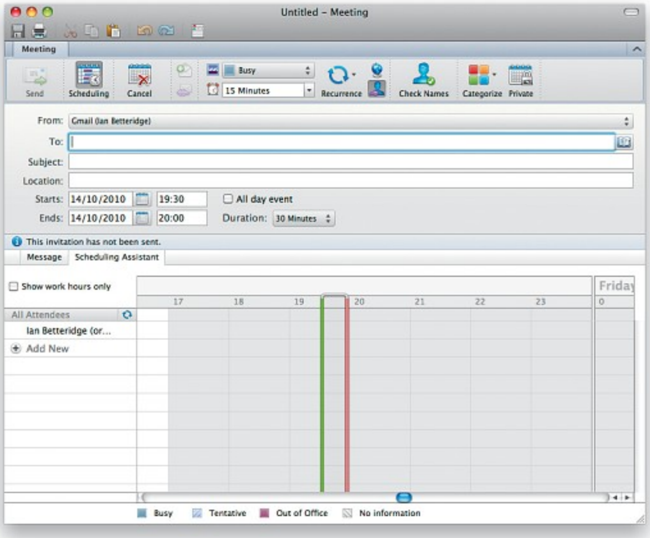
- ⊕ Rebuild in Cocoa for the future
- ⊕ Streamlined modern interface
- ⊕ Improvements under the hood
- ⊖ The Ribbon is not for all tastes
- ⊖ Occasional '1.0' bugs
- ⊖ Conversation view isn't great

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Outlook is a good solid replacement for Entourage, and it comes with an all-round cleaner look and feel."

More than just email, Outlook can organise your life - check out the Scheduling Assistant.



From: Gmail (Ian Betteridge)
To:
Subject:
Location:
Starts: 14/10/2010 19:30 ☐ All day event
Ends: 14/10/2010 20:00 Duration: 30 Minutes

This invitation has not been sent.

>> OFFICE SUITE

Microsoft Office for Mac 2011

Home & Student Edition and Home & Business Edition

£90-£240 Is it worth stumping up the extra cash for the Home & Business Edition of Office?

CONTACTS

Developer: Microsoft
www.microsoft.com/mac

PROS & CONS

Home & Student Edition

- ⊕ Cheaper and faster than 2008
- ⊕ Visual Basic returns
- ⊕ Thoughtful new features
- ⊖ Irritating characteristics

Home & Business Edition

- ⊕ Outlook better than Entourage
- ⊕ Mail database gone
- ⊖ Pricey
- ⊖ No upgrade pricing

VERDICTS

Home & Student Edition

★★★★☆

"As well as delivering a solid upgrade, Microsoft has driven down the cost."

Home & Business Edition

★★★½☆

"Outlook's a big step up from Entourage, but only power users need it."

Make no mistake, *Office for Mac 2011* is a big improvement over the previous iterations. Across the board, it's noticably faster and feels more at home on the Mac than before.

Microsoft has also added some thoughtful features throughout. We love the fullscreen mode in *Word* – it's distraction-free writing at its best. Similarly, the return of Visual Basic for Applications will be reason enough for some to take the plunge and upgrade. The item reordering in *PowerPoint* is another nice touch, even though we'd like to be able to edit items and see a live preview as you edit. The Web Apps are a welcome addition too, as is the ability to collaborate in real time online.

The contextual Ribbon toolbar takes its bow on the Mac. As we noted in our *Excel* review, you can disable it if you're not a fan, although this does hide away many options.

Office:mac 2011
HOME & BUSINESS
Office:mac 2011
HOME & STUDENT
Microsoft

The cheaper Home & Student edition of Office for Mac 2011 will suffice for most people.

Here to stay

You get a regular toolbar above the Ribbon, which you can customise in the different apps. Doing so in *Outlook* was a Mac-like case of drag and drop, whereas in *Word*, there was a more complex dialog. Ultimately, though, you can't get by on the old-style toolbars alone – the range of options just isn't there.

There are still some annoying little characteristics that will grate over time – such as when you click Cancel to get rid of the Document Gallery, it still opens a fresh document in that app. But don't let these things put you off, because this is a vast improvement over what came before at a more competitive price.

> *"Office for Mac 2011 is a big improvement. Across the board, it's noticably faster and feels more at home on the Mac than before"*

There are two flavours of *Office 2011*, one with *Outlook* and the other without. Microsoft has dropped the prices of both compared to *Office 2008*, so you now get the *Home & Student* for £90 (only £10 more than *iWork '09*). To get *Outlook* will set you back an additional £100, effectively pricing the mail and calendar client at more than *Word*, *Excel* and *PowerPoint* combined. For home users, there's absolutely no need to spend the extra though – so go for the *Home & Student* edition.

Similarly, if you run a small business and are keen to keep costs down, you can use the applications that come with your Mac anyway, such as *Mail* and *iCal*. If you run Exchange servers, these apps will talk to them, and they enable you to manage centralised or shared calendars, so you'll be able to get by without spending the extra.

Where *Outlook* will be of interest is for power users who need to manage their own and other people's mail, contacts and calendars via an Exchange server. Yes, you can do this with *Mail* et al. But using *Outlook* will make your life a lot easier.

Laurence Cable

>> QUICK LOOK / What you get for your money

EDITION	PRICE	LICENSES	WORD	EXCEL	POWERPOINT	OUTLOOK
Home & Student	£90	1	✓	✓	✓	✗
	£110	3	✓	✓	✓	✗
Home & Business	£190	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
	£240	1 user, 2 computers	✓	✓	✓	✓

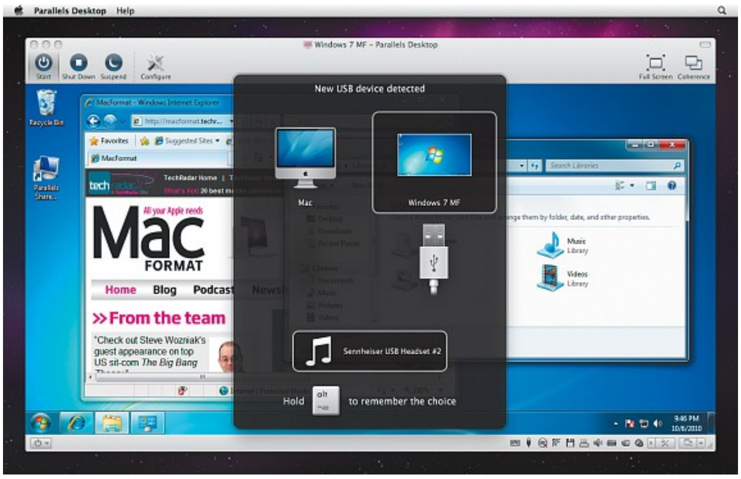
>> VIRTUALISATION SOFTWARE

Parallels Desktop 6 for Mac

£65 (£35 upgrade) The Windows-on-Mac app returns with more speed and polish

Only a year has gone by since we reviewed *Parallels Desktop 5*, but version 6 is now here to battle arch-rival *VMware Fusion*. Instead of changes aplenty, this release of *Desktop* concentrates on improving key areas of the virtualisation application: performance, polish and mobility.

For many users of this class of product, speed is the most important purchase consideration. *Desktop* is now 64-bit, offering more power on high-end Macs, and speed in general use continues to impress across the board, mostly outpacing *Fusion*. Bar oddly slow suspended Windows 7 machine resumption and sluggish boot times, *Desktop* equals or betters *Fusion*. In 3D gaming, such as for *Half-Life 2*, the gap was startling. Whereas *Desktop 5* and *Fusion 3.1* were mostly – although not always – close, *Desktop 6* performance is often way ahead of both.


Parallels Desktop
Windows 7 MF – Parallels Desktop
New USB device detected
Mac
Windows 7 MF
Sennheiser USB Headset #2
Hold alt to remember the choice

Parallels' interface continues to mature – this release feels more polished and professional.

Game wise

Even on our most modest test hardware – a Core 2 Duo iMac – the likes of *Grid* proved playable under *Desktop 6*, with very little stuttering, but the game resembled half-speed stop-motion in *Fusion*. Of course, not all games work well – if your tastes are cutting-edge, you'll still need Boot Camp; however, if your demands are a little more modest, *Desktop* should be suitable, and it now adds 5.1 surround-sound support to the mix, for more immersive experiences.

> *"Even on modest test hardware – a Core 2 Duo iMac – the likes of Grid proved playable under Desktop 6, with very little stuttering"*

Elsewhere, improvements are subtler but no less welcome. In previous reviews, our main problem with *Desktop* was its lack of polish, with the application often feeling rickety and unfinished. Version 6 is the most stable and robust *Desktop* 'point zero' release we've seen, with only a couple of minor glitches occurring during testing. The interface continues to evolve into something sleek – it's more consistent and more professional-looking throughout – and usability has also seen a boost. Enhanced Mac integration comes in the form of common shortcuts working in Windows and the facility to utilise Spotlight to search for Windows applications. The two 'mixed' modes, Coherence and Crystal, have sensibly been merged. And even small touches, such as the friendly pop-up box for choosing device assignment, help to make *Desktop* feel like an application that's been developed with the utmost care.

Sadly, the same can't be said for *Parallels Mobile*, which Parallels Holdings has made quite a big deal about. It's essentially a virtual network utility, or VNC, that enables you to access and control virtual machines from an iOS device. There's potential here, and it's extremely easy to get working, but the shortcomings are severe. We found *Parallels Mobile* to be cripplingly slow and plagued with usability and control issues right from the off; it's also far too easy to leave a 'headless' virtual machine running in the background on your Mac, pointlessly stealing resources.

Back to the source

However, we're certainly not going to overly criticise *Desktop* for what's effectively an add-on freebie that many users won't actually use, especially when the rest of the application fares so well. Version 5 showed promise, but it's with this latest release that *Parallels Desktop* finally realises its full potential, offering focus, polish and market-leading performance.

Craig Grannell

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Parallels Holdings
www.parallels.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel 1.66GHz or greater, Core 2 Duo recommended
RAM: 1GB; 2GB recommended
OS: Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later
Hard disk space: 500MB plus room for each virtual machine

PROS & CONS

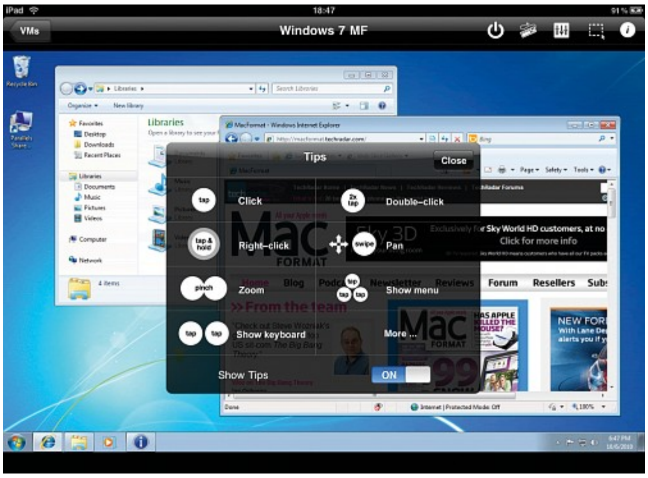
- ⊕ Impressive speed
- ⊕ Refined, polished interface
- ⊕ Stable and mostly bug-free
- ⊕ Getting good for games…
- ⊖ … But no DirectX 10 support
- ⊖ iOS app is disappointing

VERDICT

★★★★½

"The best Parallels Desktop version yet, especially for speed and Windows gaming."

Parallels Mobile looks great in stills, but it's… just… so… slow…



>> PERSONAL ORGANISER

Ilium Software eWallet 7.1.1

$20 (£13) If database security is your thing…

CONTACTS

Developer: Ilium Software
www.iliumsoft.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later
Processor: Intel CPU

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Very powerful data encryption
- ⊕ Sync with portable devices
- ⊕ Limited, clumsy configurability
- ⊖ No way to import data

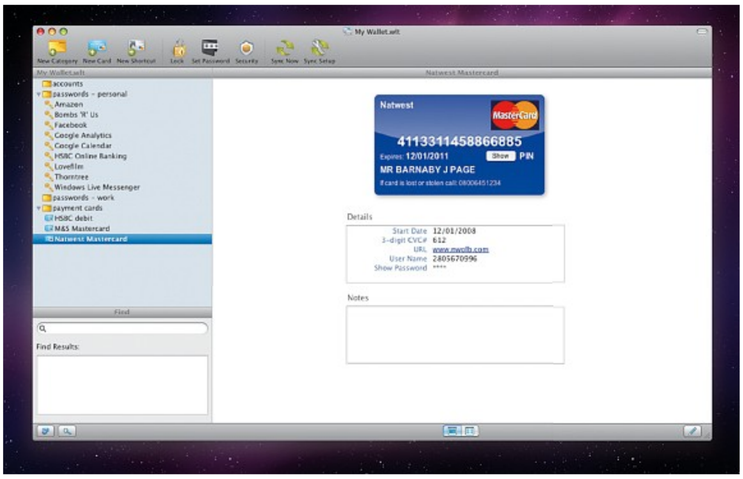
VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Consider eWallet for the encryption. Otherwise, better databases exist."

This is a simple database with a difference. It hides your data using the 256-bit Advanced Encryption Standard approved by the US National Security Agency for documents classified Top Secret: as good as you're going to get this side of GCHQ, in other words.

It's marketed as a way to safely store bank details, passwords and so on, and comes with pre-designed record layouts for about 30 kinds of data. You can rename fields, and there are spare fields in each layout too. However, you can't rename the actual layouts. Though you can edit field names and data types on a record-by-record basis, you can't make changes across the whole layout, so such edits are only practical on a small scale.


My Wallet.wlt
New Category
New Card
New Shortcut
Lock
Set Password
Security
Sync Now
Sync Setup
My Wallet.wlt
Natwest Mastercard
accounts
passwords - personal
Amazon
Bombs 'R' Us
Facebook
Google Analytics
Google Calendar
HSBC Online Banking
Lovefilm
Thorntree
Windows Live Messenger
passwords - work
payment cards
HSBC debit
M&S Mastercard
Natwest Mastercard
Find
Find Results:
Natwest
MasterCard
Show
Details
Notes

4113311458866885
Expires: 12/01/2011 PIN
MR BARNABY J PAGE
If card is lost or stolen call: 08006451234

Start Date 12/01/2008
3-digit CVC# 612
URL www.nwolb.com
User Name 2805670996
Show Password ****

eWallet's security features mean you can entrust it with sensitive information, like PINs.

Records are usefully grouped into user-created categories within each database, and you can search the contents of all records. You can also synchronise databases on Mac, iPhone, iPod touch and iPad.

The useful AutoPass feature in the Windows version, which lets you launch websites with username and password filled in, hasn't made it to the Mac. And there's no way to import data from other databases. Still, what you're really paying for here is the encryption capability. If you need that, and the volume of data concerned isn't huge, *eWallet* is a straightforward way to get spook-level security.
Barnaby Page

>> MEDIA UPLOADER

Courier

$20 (£13) An elegant way to share photos

CONTACTS

Developer: Realmac Software
www.realmacsoftware.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 or later
Processor: Intel CPU

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks stunning
- ⊕ Takes the pain out of uploads
- ⊕ Plug-in API
- ⊖ Unintuitive

VERDICT

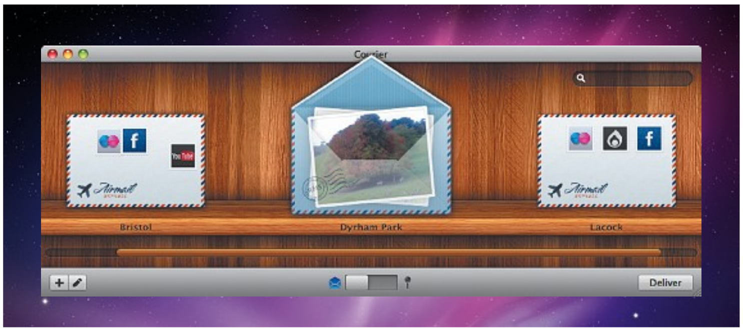
★★★☆☆

"A great idea in a beautiful package, but sadly it's not as intuitive as claimed."

Courier transforms the process of sharing your media, by doing away with lists of files and replacing them with the analogy of an envelope you put in the post.

Pop your photos in the digital envelope, stamp it with the service you'd like to upload it to and hit Deliver to send your images off to your chosen location. It supports popular services including Flickr, Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and FTP, and you can add others as plug-ins, such as TwitPic. All you need to do is authenticate each account and *Courier* does the rest.

Courier looks the part from the moment you open it. The app has a gorgeous interface that feels right at home in OS X, and is slightly reminiscent of the excellent *Delicious Library*. You can tag media you add and give each a description, although annoyingly you can't tag batches. Certain services also enable you to upload to a specific album, which can save you time.


Courier
Bristol
Dyrham Park
Lacock
Deliver

Pop your images or videos in an envelope and Courier delivers them to their destination.

It's a fantastic idea that works well on the whole, but it's blighted by a series of niggles. Despite its stunning looks, finding your way around isn't all that intuitive, and the interface's sparse nature can make it difficult to know what to do next. For example, if you try to deliver an envelope without stamping it, *Courier* tells you that action can't be completed, but it doesn't offer you an instant way to rectify the problem. And the Stamp button on the user interface looks more like a pencil than anything else. Frustration can easily ensue.

There are other areas where this lack of intuitiveness undermines *Courier* – when an FTP upload went wrong, for example, we weren't given any reason why. Such instances are a shame, because this could be a gem. Fingers crossed for the next version.
Laurence Cable

>> BACKUP UTILITY

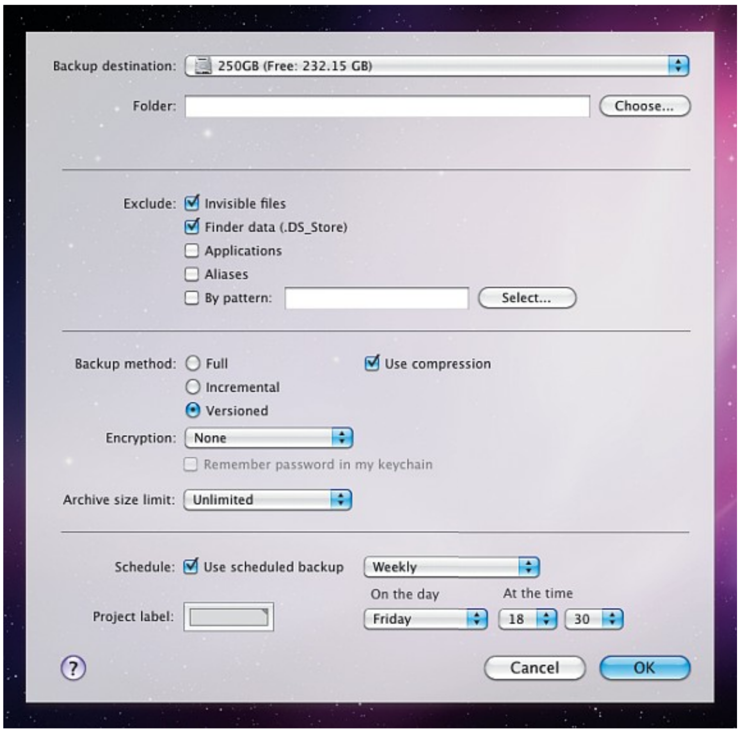
Get Backup Pro 2.4.2

MacFormat Choice ★★★★★

$40 (£27) The more copies you have of your digital belongings, the better…

You may be under the impression that all you need is *Time Machine* to ensure the integrity of your data. However, a belt-and-braces approach is always a much safer option. The more backups you have of your data, the less likely you are to be worried when a hard disk starts making a weird clicking noise. There's no shortage of backup tools available already, but just like everything, some approaches suit a working style better than others.

The latest edition of *Get Backup Pro* offers a three-way approach to try and bridge a gap of sorts. You can run a backup regimen that enables you to save specific folders of content, such as your *iPhoto* library, mailbox, *iTunes* folder and *Address Book*. Or, if you prefer, you can simply clone your disks for a complete copy. Thirdly, you can synchronise selected folders so content is stored in two places at once. This is, no doubt, a good way to attract those users who like a belt, braces and another-belt-for-good-measure backup routine.



Backup destination: 250GB (Free: 232.15 GB)
Folder:
Exclude: ☑ Invisible files
☑ Finder data (.DS_Store)
☐ Applications
☐ Aliases
☐ By pattern:
Backup method: ○ Full ○ Incremental ● Versioned
☑ Use compression
Encryption: None
☐ Remember password in my keychain
Archive size limit: Unlimited
Schedule: ☑ Use scheduled backup Weekly
On the day: Friday
At the time: 18 30
Project label:

It's easy to set a schedule for your backups; you can keep track of projects by adding labels.

The good news is that this triple-routine doesn't add to the complexity at all. *Get Backup Pro* has a very approachable and easy-to-follow user interface. The three backup options are all managed from a single interface, but the layout doesn't lead to confusion and it's clear whether you're backing up, cloning or syncing.

> *"You can schedule the backups to occur whenever you want and, in this Pro version, encrypt your backups for extra security"*

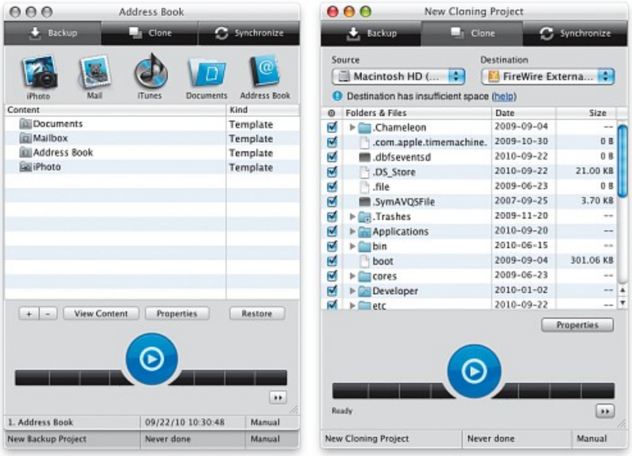
The three sections are easy enough to master, starting with the backup window. Here there are five pre-defined backup routines: iPhoto, Mail, iTunes, Documents and Address Book. Simply click on one of the icons to add that folder to your backup procedure. You can mix and match, do one at a time or all five, with the option to save to different locations or all to the same disk. If you prefer, you can also simply add a folder of your choice. The clone window is, as you might expect, easy enough to follow too – simply choose a source and destination – with the Synchronise pane just as clear.

Each backup is referred to as a project and you can have just a few or a selection of different ones, but naturally the more you have, the more complex it becomes to manage. You can schedule the backups to occur whenever you want and, in this pro version, encrypt your backups for extra security. (There's a free version without the encryption options, synchronisation limited to one-way syncing, and some other minor restrictions.) If you've got a lot of data, you'll be in for a long wait the first time you use it. After that, we found it to be speedy and stable.

If you're a home user, then the *Pro* version probably isn't necessary, but having encrypted backups, two-way synchronisation, and incremental backups is handy. We really liked the clear interface, which makes it easy even for the complete novice to manage a range of backup routines.

Christopher Brennan

Back up specific regions of your data, such as your iPhoto or iTunes library.



Address Book

Content	Kind
Documents	Template
Mailbox	Template
Address Book	Template
iPhoto	Template

1. Address Book	09/22/10 10:30:48	Manual
New Backup Project	Never done	Manual

New Cloning Project

Source: Macintosh HD (…
Destination: FireWire Externa…
Destination has insufficient space (help)

	Folders & Files	Date	Size
☑	.Chameleon	2009-09-04	--
☑	.com.apple.timemachine.	2009-10-30	0 B
☑	.dbfseventsd	2010-09-22	0 B
☑	.DS_Store	2010-09-22	21.00 KB
☑	.file	2009-06-23	0 B
☑	.SymAVQSFile	2007-09-25	3.70 KB
☑	.Trashes	2009-11-20	--
☑	Applications	2010-09-20	--
☑	bin	2010-06-15	--
☑	boot	2009-09-04	301.06 KB
☑	cores	2009-06-23	--
☑	Developer	2010-01-02	--
☑	etc	2010-09-22	--

Ready

New Cloning Project	Never done	Manual

CONTACTS

Developer: BeLight Software
www.belightsoft.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X v10.4 or later,
Hard disk space: 17MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Simple interface
- ⊕ Easy-to-schedule backups
- ⊕ Sync, backup and clone in one
- ⊕ Manage multiple backup projects
- ⊕ Create bootable backups
- ⊕ Good value

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An impressive backup, clone and syncing tool that's easy to use and has some useful features."

>> ON THE DISC
Find trials of all these programs on the disc.

>> MINI RECORDING STUDIO

Blip Interactive NanoStudio 1.0

£FREE Can a tiny pretender to GarageBand's throne best Apple's app?

CONTACTS

Developer: Blip Interactive
www.blipinteractive.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5+ **Processor:** Intel Mac

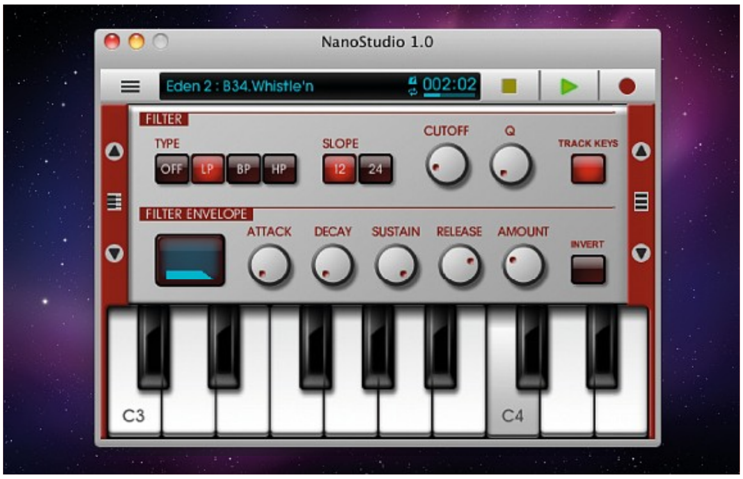
PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Great voices and effects
- ⊕ Powerful and usable
- ⊖ Tiny work area
- ⊖ No support for keyboards

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great advert for the equivalent iOS app, but also a fantastic Mac freebie in its own right."



NanoStudio packs a punch in its tiny work area and is huge fun to use, but a bit quirky at times.

NanoStudio's arrival on the iPhone in July was swiftly followed by *MacFormat* scurrying off to a darkened room, to spend hours composing exciting electronic music. The £8.99 app was a revelation – loads of great built-in voices, a six-track sequencer, effects, live recording and pattern editing – and it made redundant the need for *GarageBand* on iOS. With the app being pricey, the developer decided to create a 'demo' for PC and Mac, which became *NanoStudio 1.0*.

What you get with *NanoStudio* for the Mac is essentially the iOS version: dozens of voices, pads and pitch-bend that can be manipulated live, knobs to twiddle and effects to apply. When you're done recording, you can edit patterns in a *GarageBand*-like fashion, amend the mix, and export everything as a WAV. Unfortunately, controls are accessed by mouse-clicks only – there's no Mac keyboard or USB piano-style keyboard support; and the workspace is tiny, as per the iPhone version. This makes using some aspects of the app decidedly quirky, although we still found it usable, which shows how much thought went into the iOS version.

It's way more than a mere demo, but just short of classic status; but since it's free, it's still a no-brainer.

Craig Grannell

>> DOCK UTILITY

DockView 1.24

$8 (£5) Add window previews to your Dock

There's a cottage industry on the Mac right now of indie developers welding bits of Windows 7 to Mac OS X. *DockView* brings over taskbar window previews – hover your cursor over a Dock icon and the application's windows appear in miniature versions, which you can click to access.

Usefully, *DockView* provides configuration options. Along with the inevitable 'Start at Login', you can add previews to the application switcher, filter certain applications or window types (hidden/minimised) and have previews require a modifier to be held. Appearance settings enable you to adjust the height and width of previews, although they shrink if an application has many open windows – 21 is the most that appears to be supported.

In use, *DockView* is stable and straightforward, but too much precision is needed to click previews – it's too easy to move across another app's icon, accidentally triggering its previews. Also, for Snow Leopard users, Dock Exposé makes *DockView* feel redundant, even if the add-on's more intuitive.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A good window preview add-on, if a little fiddly, but the price is right."

>> iPHONE FILE BROWSER

iPhone Explorer 2.005

£FREE Access files on your iPhone

Although you can access most iOS device files through *iTunes*, doing so is fiddly, and Apple doesn't enable access to all areas. *iPhone Explorer* enables you to, during emergencies where *iTunes* fails, access photos, recordings and application data. The latter was of particular interest to us, since Apple doesn't enable arbitrary back-up of things like saved documents and game progress data. With *iPhone Explorer*, we were able to transfer compositions intact from the Mac version of *NanoStudio* to the iPhone one, and we managed to save game high-scores for a couple of products, delete and reinstall the game, and then restore the data.

Unfortunately, the interface just can't keep up. None of its views work well, and the lack of column ordering in list view is infuriating, since applications appear to be listed at random. Compared to *PhoneView*, it's also a chore to retrieve media. However, with *iPhone Explorer* being free and enabling access to app data (unlike *PhoneView*), it's worth installing if you own an iOS device.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A poor interface hampers what's otherwise a useful product for iOS device owners."

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Five features of Adobe CS5
iPad Wi-Fi model reviewed
Get a free 3D desktop
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iWork for iPad reviewed
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Issue 227 / November 2010

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1TB external drives group test
Apple Mac mini server reviewed
Apple hardware: can it hurt you?
How to fake HDR effects in Photoshop
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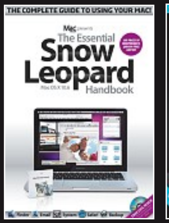

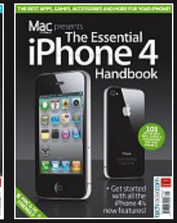

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>> REAL-TIME STRATEGY

Supreme Commander II

£20 Command and control, mechanoid style

CONTACTS

Developer: Gas Powered Games
www.vpltd.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.3 or later
Processor: Intel 2.2GHz **RAM:** 1GB
Video: GeForce 8600, Radeon 2400HD **Hard disk space:** 5GB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good visuals
- ⊕ Accessible gameplay
- ⊕ Enjoyable missions
- ⊖ Not the game it was, apparently

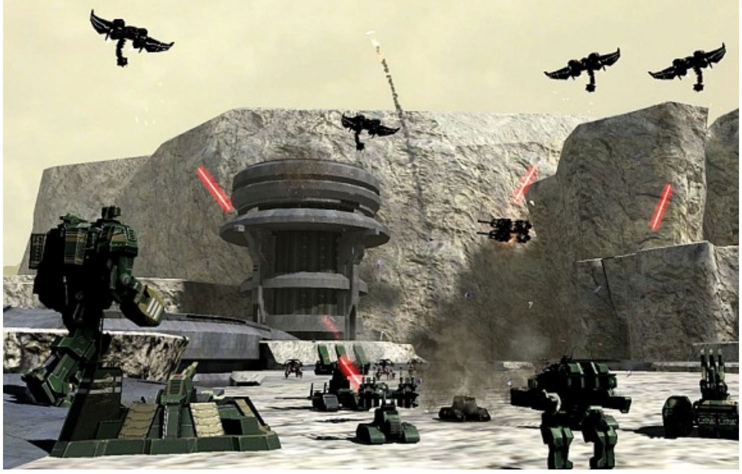
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Disappointing for purists, but fun and accessible for the rest of us."

We haven't had the pleasure of playing Gas Powered Games' 2007 real-time strategy *Supreme Commander*, so we have no way of drawing comparisons with this sequel. Usually, this wouldn't be too much of a problem, as one should always examine a game entirely on its own merits. And on its own merits, *Supreme Commander 2* is a tremendously enjoyable game.

First and foremost, it's about giant robots (or Armoured Command Units) and various other bits of advanced military hardware waging war against each other. It's up to the player to build bases, research technology and micromanage a war. To the untrained eye, *SupCom 2* looks impressive, featuring well-animated mechanoids, detailed scenery and a suitably industrial colour palette. But compared to its processor-hungry predecessor, it's a bit chunky.


Big robots. We love 'em. Just as long as we don't have to repair them when they break down.

Also, fans of the first game (and hardcore strategy game enthusiasts in general) are a bit miffed that the original game's complexity has been sacrificed at the altar of playability. For this reason, we have to submit two conclusions regarding *SupCom 2*'s suitability as a purchase.

If you loved the first game, enjoy excruciating difficulty, think the mantra 'less is more' is the last refuge of the 'casual gamer' and would rather spend aeons mastering the intricacies of gaming, then by all means pass over this inconsequential and frankly insulting release. But if you just fancy a neat, friendly and accessible strategy game that will keep you entertained for a few weeks, go for it.
Andy Dyer

>> ARCADE

Tasty Planet: Back For Seconds

£14 The rampant goo travels through time!

CONTACTS

Developer: Dingo Games
www.dingogames.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.3.9 or later
Processor: 800MHz CPU
Hard disk space: 46MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Six different time zones
- ⊕ Timed and casual play
- ⊕ Cooperative mode
- ⊖ A bit repetitive

VERDICT

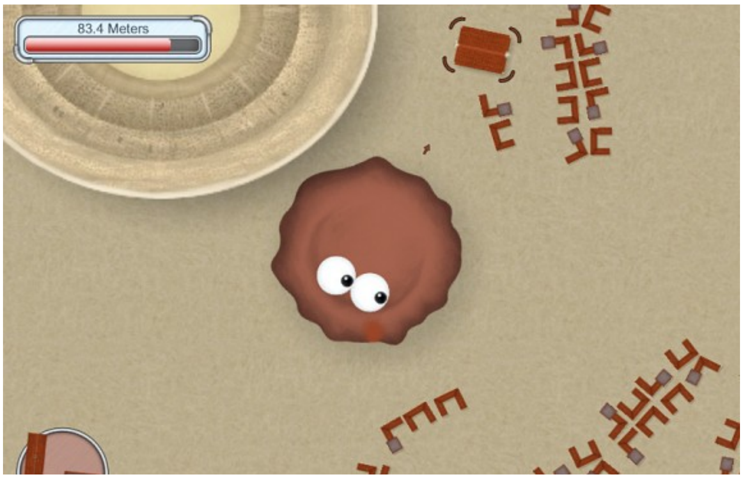
★★★☆☆

"Despite being repetitive, Back for Seconds will keep you coming back for more."

The first *Tasty Planet* saw a professor's nanotechnology (a small blob of goo) get out of control and start eating everything in its path, from bacterial life right up through the food chain and beyond, culminating in the voracious blob consuming the entire universe.

The sequel works on exactly the same premise, only this time the goo also consumes the prof's time machine, enabling the creature to travel to different historical periods and consume everything there too.

Your job as said blob is to move around and suck up anything that's smaller than you. The more you eat, the bigger you get, allowing you to eat yet larger items. Grow to a certain size and the level is complete. Every time zone you visit consists of several historically themed levels, such as Roman and Egyptian. The final set of levels are set in the future, where you can eat hoverboards, flying cars and various other fancy technology.



Being chased by a samurai is no joke. It won't be long before he's lunch – everything is eventually.

While it is repetitive, variety comes from a number of sources. Some levels contain objects that fight back, such as ninjas and Roman ballistas. You can play either casually or against the clock, which can be challenging. And there's a two-player co-op mode.

It's highly addictive, and if it was on the App Store for a couple of quid, we'd surely recommend it. As it is, try the demo first to see if it's your thing.
Andy Dyer

>> ACTION ADVENTURE

Assassin's Creed II

£40 The best-looking, most stylish game available on the Mac, bar none

Those who haven't played *Assassin's Creed* (and as Mac owners, you more than likely haven't) will need to concentrate on the summing up of 'the story so far' that plays at the start of this sequel, as the ongoing plot is a complex one.

In the original game, the main character Desmond is forced – through the use of a machine called the Animus, belonging to Abstergo Industries – to relive the memories of a 12th-century assassin called Altair. At the start of *Assassin's Creed II*, Desmond and colleague Lucy Stillman break out of Abstergo and head for a secret lab. Here, Lucy introduces Desmond to her friends and their updated version of the Animus, which they intend to use to train Desmond as an assassin by having him relive the memories of 15th-century nobleman Ezio Auditore.

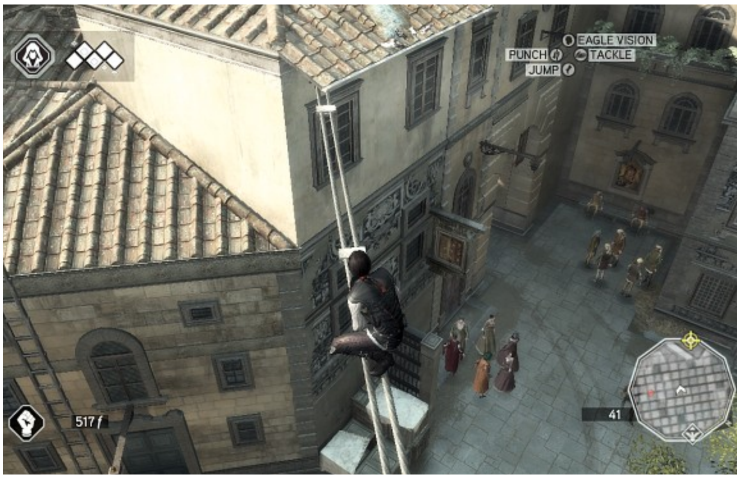
Why? Because Abstergo Industries is actually a front for the Templars, who are trying to gain artefacts called Pieces of Eden – and must be stopped at all costs. It's all a bit confusing, but it makes sense once you play it. All you need to know is that when you're reliving Ezio's memories, and your father and brother are killed, it's time to learn the ways of the assassin and take on your father's enemies.

> *"As you explore the locations, you are able to not only walk the streets, but also use the environment in the style of a free runner"*

Finger acrobatics

We do have one word of warning. You must persevere through the first half-hour of play or so in order to get your head and fingers around the complex keyboard controls. In the absence of a games controller option, Ezio's many abilities take a while to get to grips with, but the effort is worth it.

As Ezio, your finest attribute is your athleticism. As you explore the locations (including Florence, San Gimignano and eventually Rome) you are able to not only walk the streets, but also use the entire environment as a playground in the style of a 15th-century free runner. For example, simply by holding direction, action and jump buttons, you can leap onto boxes, twist and grab a window ledge, clamber up a couple of floors, grasp a parapet, swing up onto a roof and leap to an adjacent building.



Even before becoming a fully-fledged assassin, Ezio shows he's already pretty light on his feet.

Being an assassin, however, you'll also need to use stealth. This can be as simple as leaping from a tall building into a hay cart and laying low for a bit, but more often it's about blending in. *ACII*'s world is a living, breathing place full of citizens going about their daily lives. By walking amongst a crowd you can effectively blend in with the masses and evade detection.

But you are an assassin, and that inevitably means killing people. Some missions involve tailing key characters before executing them in a blood-spattered cut-scene. Sometimes though, you'll find yourself in the thick of battle, and it's here you can employ all your skills, including locking, grabbing, deflecting, leaping, counter attacks – or just escaping.

The further you progress, the more adept you become, and the more resilient, thanks to upgrade paths. You can visit a blacksmith in order to acquire weapons and armour. But you can also meet up with Leonardo Da Vinci, who, over time, will provide you with a range of fancy gadgets.

We're already out of space and we haven't even mentioned the eagle-vision skill, enabling you to see hidden symbols; the vehicles (horses, gondolas, flying machine); or even the Mac-exclusive content. But it doesn't matter, as you'll discover these and many more treats when you play it for yourself. And play it you must: it's astonishingly good.

Andy Dyer

CONTACTS

Developer: Ubisoft
www.ubisoft.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo 3.06GHz **RAM:** 3GB **Video:** 256MB dedicated shader model 3.0 or higher **Hard disk space:** 9GB **Other:** Internet connection required

PROS & CONS

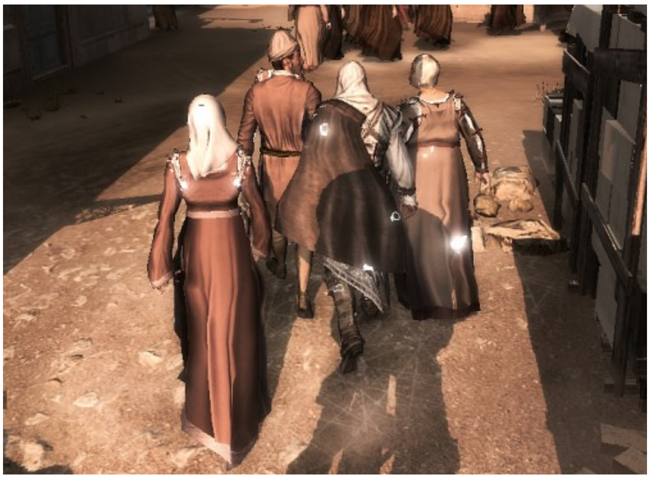
- ⊕ Incredible visuals
- ⊕ Superb acrobatics
- ⊕ Engaging combat
- ⊕ Varied missions
- ⊕ Engrossing story and acting
- ⊖ Complex controls

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A stunning game from start to finish. It currently doesn't get any better than Assassin's Creed II."

Blend in with the crowd to avoid detection – but beware of 'seekers' who will ferret you out.



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>> iPHONE MUSICAL COOKING

Levi Roots – Sunshine Food

£3.99 Spice up your cooking with some reggae music

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Beautiful interface
- ⊕ Clever shopping list
- ⊕ 'Ready-time' estimate
- ⊖ More videos would be nice

VERDICT

★★★★½

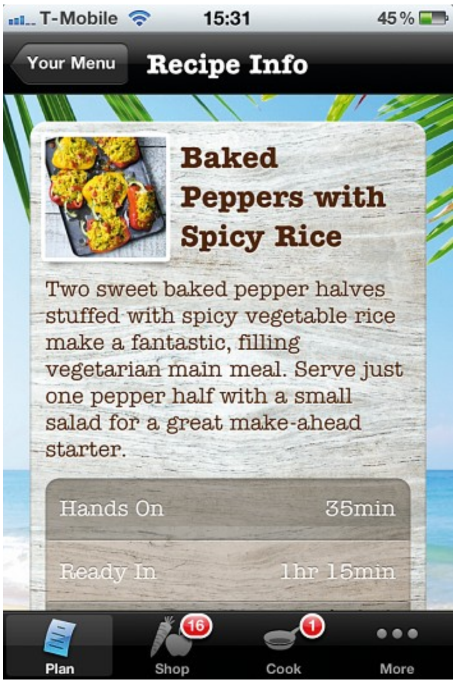
"A gold standard for cookery apps. Well thought-out and brilliantly executed."

Remember Levi Roots, the guy who took Reggae Reggae Sauce to *Dragon's Den*? He's behind this Caribbean cooking app. The tone is set as soon as you open it for the first time, with a cheery video of Levi introducing the app. Then it's over to you to explore the recipes, some of which use his famous Reggae Reggae sauce.

The app's tropical beach feel has been well thought-out. It's built around a menu, to which you add the dishes. Pick from a range of recipes, or search by ingredient, time needed, a particular occasion or dietary requirements. As you select each category, you can narrow your choice further. Once you've found something to make, you get the vital stats, such as preparation time, cooking time and a spice rating.

Things get even better when you add things to your menu. The ingredients forward to a shopping list, which you can take with you around the supermarket, ticking things off as you get them. It even suggests other dishes that go well with your selection. The Cook section gives you step-by-step instructions, accompanied by music. There's also a running estimate of the time your dish will be ready. A quality app indeed.

Laurence Cable



T-Mobile 15:31 45 %

Your Menu

Recipe Info

Baked Peppers with Spicy Rice

Two sweet baked pepper halves stuffed with spicy vegetable rice make a fantastic, filling vegetarian main meal. Serve just one pepper half with a small salad for a great make-ahead starter.

Hands On 35min

Ready In 1hr 15min

Get a recipe's vital stats before deciding what to make.

>> iPHONE SOUND UTILITY

Awareness

£2.99 Keep your ears open

With your headphones in, you become oblivious to what's going on around you. This app aims to solve this by using your in-wire mic to listen out for ambient noise. When it gets above a certain level – such as when someone talks to you – the app plays what the mic picks up through your headphones.

It's a great idea, but in practice it doesn't work, at least in version 1.1. The level at which it cuts in can be set automatically, but it doesn't then adjust itself as ambient noise levels change. So when you get onto a noisy train from a quiet station, the din is amplified in your ears and you have to turn it down manually. We found ourselves constantly having to fiddle with the cut-in level to make it work, which became increasingly annoying.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"This is a fantastic idea, but in practice it's simply too much of a hassle to use. A shame."

> iPAD WORD PROCESSOR

iA Writer

£2.99 Distraction-free writing

Love writing? Then you'll love *Writer*. It's a no-frills text editor that includes some thoughtful features to make writing on the iPad easier.

For example, it displays an additional line of commonly used keys above the regular keyboard, such as quote marks. This bar also includes arrow keys to move the cursor around manually and ones to jump through your text word by word. There's also automatic Dropbox integration, a real-time character count and the estimated time it'll take to read what you've written.

If you want to write totally distraction-free, you can hide the title bar, which also disables the spell check and autocorrect features, so that your creative focus remains entirely on your writing.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Simple and straightforward: just what you need from a portable text editor."

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

>> iPHONE MUSIC

ZumoCast

£FREE Live music streaming

Do you ever wish you'd remembered to put that new CD from your Mac onto your iPod or iPhone? Now you never need to be in that situation again, thanks to the free ZumoCast streaming system. As long as your Mac's switched on, you can stream any audio or video from it directly to your iPhone. It can transcode on the fly, enabling you to play formats such as WMV, RealMedia and ASF.

You can even download files to your device, although these are only accessible through the *ZumoCast* app, not through your iPhone's music library. Songs play in the background as you do other things, unless you open them from the Files section. The service works fine over Wi-Fi and 3G connections, but struggles on GPRS.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's so easy to set up and use; you'll never be without a song or video again."

>> iPHONE SANDBOX

Gangstar: Miami Vindication

£3.99 More than just a cheap GTA clone

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Varied missions
- ⊕ Fun vehicles
- ⊕ It's a big game
- ⊖ A bit glitchy

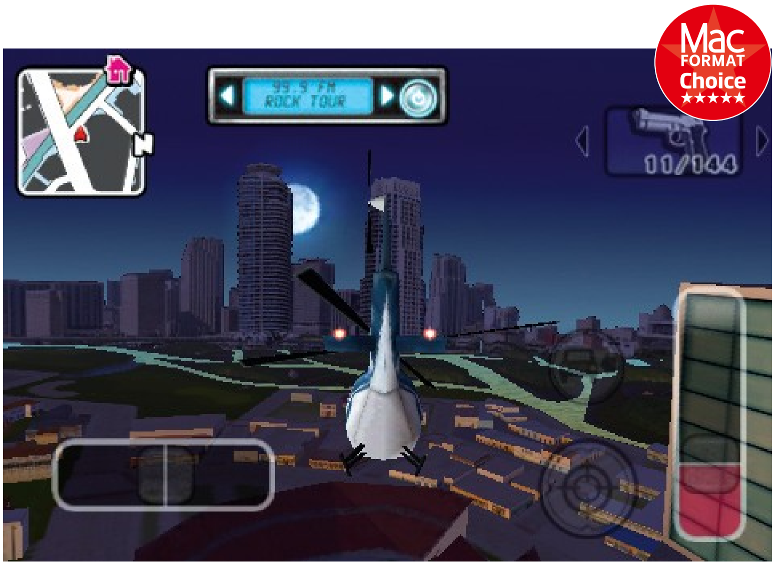
VERDICT

★★★★★

"A largely entertaining game that's pulled off with considerable skill."

Who'd have thought, when the iPhone first launched, that we'd be seeing epic console games running perfectly happily on the device. But here, in *Gangstar: Miami Vindication*, we have a perfectly serviceable approximation of *GTA: Vice City*.

The plot and scripting aren't the best. You play Johnny and you're searching for your missing brother, a search that sees you having to work for and come up against a whole load of shady characters who are all broadly painted gangland stereotypes with a not-so-slick line in bad-boy patter. But the game's missions are numerous, varied and mostly well-designed, ranging from simple thefts and car chases to gangland hits and open urban warfare.



Nick a chopper from the roof of the hospital and explore the city, which is a sprawling metropolis.

There's no need to go into too much detail here. If it's in *GTA*, you'll also find it here. But is *Gangstar* a worthy substitute? The answer has to be 'yes'. While Rockstar's own *Chinatown Wars* on the iPhone is superb, it omits fully 3D cityscapes. Aside from a lack of finesse, *Gangstar* does everything with enough flair to make it a playable game and a decent homage to the console versions of *GTA*. Detractors point to its shortcomings and glitches, and label it a substandard copycat. Fair point. But in the absence of the real deal, *Gangstar* at least captures the essence of the *GTA* experience, even if it does fall short of its high production values.

Andy Dyer

>> iPAD ACTION PLATFORMER

Prince of Persia: Warrior Within

£5.99 Messing about with the Sands of Time

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks amazing
- ⊕ Smart level design
- ⊕ Enjoyable combat
- ⊖ Needs a physical controller

VERDICT

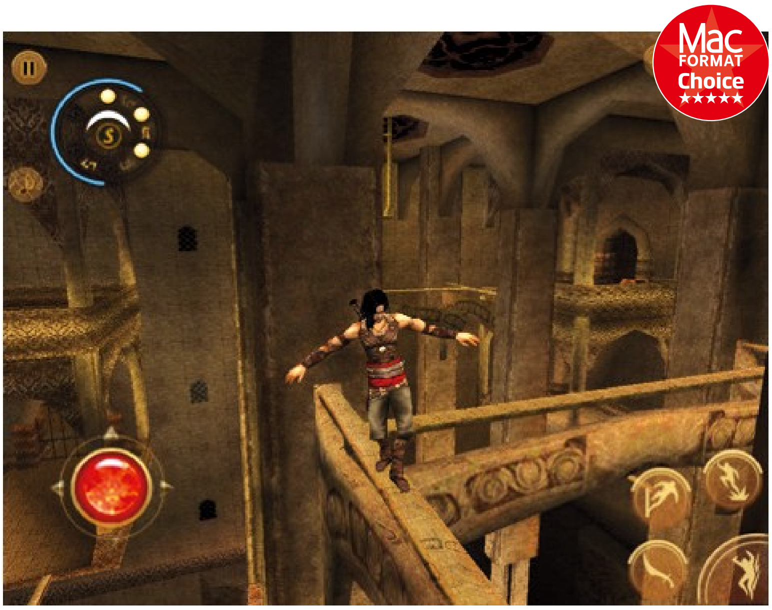
★★★★★

"Control issues aside, Warrior Within really is a magnificent sequel."

Warrior Within – originally a 2004 console sequel – has both style and substance, and aside from a few control issues, it works superbly on the iPad.

The Prince, having released the Sands of Time from an oversized egg timer, is now being pursued by a beast called the Dahaka. On consulting an expert, the Prince finds that anyone who releases the Sands of Time must die, so the Dahaka must restore the cosmic balance by killing him.

And it looks great. Despite being a port of a six-year-old game, the rich grandeur of the exaggerated Persian architecture looks particularly dramatic on the iPad's superb screen. Within this environment, you play out a balanced mix of platforming and combat.



During a quiet moment, the Prince polishes up his circus skills - a chance for you to practice moves.

The Prince can run, jump, roll, run along walls, climb, clamber and swing his way across almost any obstacle, stringing together moves in spectacular fashion. The same is true of his combat skills. Wielding blades, the Prince can hack, slash and lunge through enemies as well as string complex combos together. The only downfall is the controls. Acrobatic movements can be tricky to pull off because it's hard to 'feel' the virtual stick. But even with this problem, it's another great iPad game.

Andy Dyer

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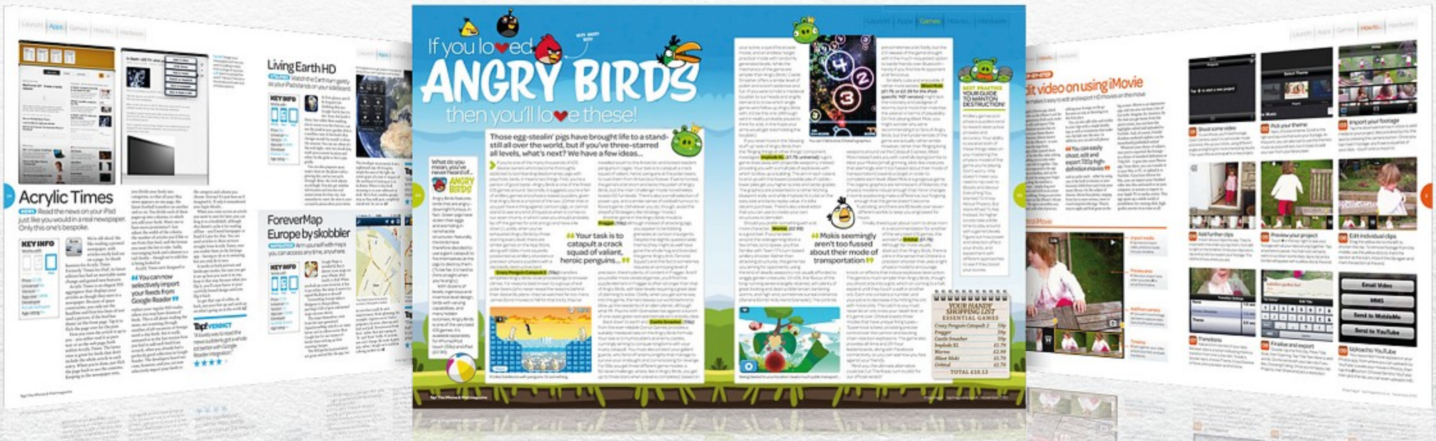

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Bath
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10th October 2010
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Dear Steve

Email clients offer you desktop inbox access, whatever the state of your internet connection.

Photography: Gavin Roberts

Words: **Ian Betteridge** Photography: **Gavin Roberts**

Email software

We pit six popular desktop email clients on the Mac against each other – but which one will be the winner?

Despite the rise of Facebook, Twitter and other social media, email remains something that we all use every day. And although over the past few years, more and more people have been using email via web-based clients such as Hotmail and Gmail, using a rich, desktop-based client still has some key advantages.

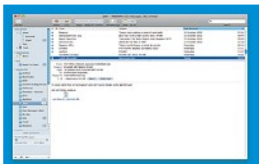
Using a desktop client gives you a local copy of your emails, which enables you to view them even when you're offline – and although it might amaze some, there are still plenty of occasions when an internet connection simply refuses to connect.

In this test, we've looked at six of the best desktop email clients on the Mac. *Apple Mail* comes with every copy of OS X, and has improved over the years from a bare-bones email client to a more powerful product. *Outlook 2011* is the latest email client from Microsoft, replacing *Entourage* in the newest version of *Office*.

Mozilla Thunderbird is an open-source email client from the team responsible for *Firefox*, and includes plenty of powerful features. *PowerMail*, *GyazMail* and *Mailsmith* complete our line-up.

All of the clients have strengths and weaknesses, but we've chosen to focus on ease of use, support for different email protocols, filtering and spam handling. Let's take a look…

> *"Using a desktop client gives you a local copy of your emails, which enables you to view them when offline"*

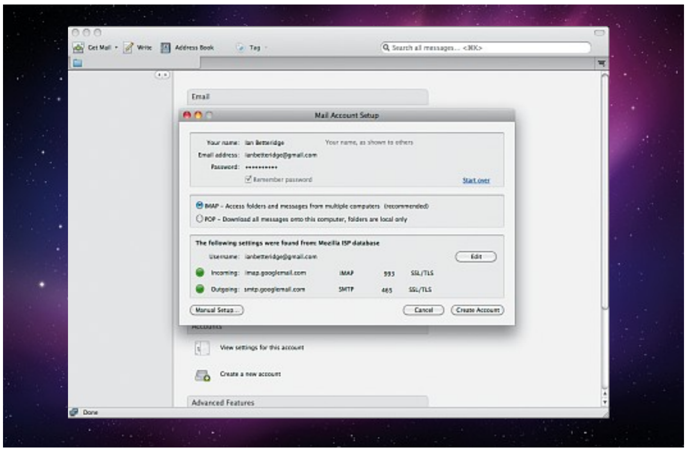


DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The first spam email was sent in 1978. A Commtouch Software report estimated the number of spam emails sent in January 2010 as 183 billion per day. It is said that the 'spam' moniker was inspired by a sketch from *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

EMAIL CLIENTS / At a glance

	Apple Mail 4.3	Microsoft Outlook 2011	GyazSquare GyazMail 1.5.1	CTM Development PowerMail 6	Stickshift Mailsmith 2.2.5	Mozilla Thunderbird 3.1
Price	Free with OS X	£189 (as part of Office 2011 Business Edition)	$18 (£11)	€49 (£43)	Free	Free
POP support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IMAP support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Exchange support	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HTML email?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
URL	www.apple.com	www.microsoft.com/mac	gyazsquare.com/gyazmail	www.ctmdev.com/powermail	www.mailsmith.org	www.mozillamessaging.com


Get Mail
Write
Address Book
Tag
Search all messages… <⌘K>
Email
Mail Account Setup
Start over
Edit
Manual Setup…
Cancel
Create Account
Accounts
View settings for this account
Create a new account
Advanced Features
Done

Your name: Ian Betteridge Your name, as shown to others
Email address: ianbetteridge@gmail.com
Password: ••••••••••
☑ Remember password

● IMAP – Access folders and messages from multiple computers (recommended)
○ POP – Download all messages onto this computer, folders are local only

The following settings were found from Mozilla ISP database
Username: ianbetteridge@gmail.com
Incoming: imap.googlemail.com IMAP 993 SSL/TLS
Outgoing: smtp.googlemail.com SMTP 465 SSL/TLS

Mozilla Thunderbird's set-up and configuration process is simple and much-improved.

>> TEST ONE

Ease of use

Setting up an email client can go one of two ways…

All of the products on test support the POP protocol, and all except *Mailsmith* support IMAP as well. *Mail* and *Outlook* also support Microsoft Exchange servers. Most will have a go at auto-configuring themselves to your account settings, although results can be variable depending on the type of account you use. As expected, *Outlook* performs well if you're using it with an Exchange account, but given a Gmail account it requires some tweaking. Likewise, *GyazMail*, *PowerMail* and *Mailsmith* require a little fiddling to work with Gmail properly.

All of the products are easy to use when it comes to day-to-day tasks. *Mail* and *Outlook* integrate with calendar systems (built-in and *iCal* respectively) to create to-do items based on emails.

Thunderbird, which in its previous incarnations was somewhat tricky to set up, has been much-improved. Now the overall interface has been brought up to the kind of standards set by *Mail* and *Outlook*.

>> TEST RESULTS

Mail	★★★★☆
Outlook	★★★★☆
GyazMail	★★★☆☆
PowerMail	★★★☆☆
Mailsmith	★★☆☆☆
Thunderbird	★★★★☆

>> TEST TWO

Multiple accounts

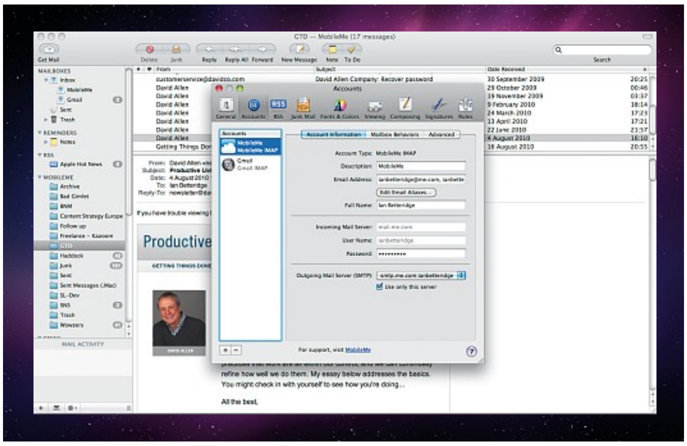
How well does the product handle multiple accounts?

Many users now have multiple email accounts, which makes handling more than one email address important. All of the applications on test have the ability to handle multiple email accounts. There are two schools of thought about how email clients should handle multiple accounts. The first is that every inbox must be kept separate, so that you don't mix work mail with home mail, for example. The second says that everything should end up in the same inbox, so you can process all your email quickly and easily.

Mail, *Outlook* and *Thunderbird* give you the option of both methods. With *Mail* or *Outlook*, you simply click on the Inbox icon at the top of the list and it places all your inboxes into a unified view. With *Thunderbird*, you need to click through to its special 'unified view' mode. The other packages keep inboxes separate, although in all cases you can create filters or special views that show you unread mail from all accounts.

>> TEST RESULTS

Mail	★★★★☆
Outlook	★★★★☆
GyazMail	★★☆☆☆
PowerMail	★★☆☆☆
Mailsmith	★★☆☆☆
Thunderbird	★★★★☆


GTD — MobileMe (17 messages)
Reply
Reply All
Forward
New Message
Note
To Do
Accounts
General
Accounts
RSS
Junk Mail
Fonts & Colors
Viewing
Composing
Signatures
Rules
Account Information
Mailbox Behaviors
Advanced
MobileMe
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Edit Email Aliases…
For support, visit MobileMe
Productive

Account Type: MobileMe IMAP
Description: MobileMe
Full Name: Ian Betteridge
Incoming Mail Server: mail.me.com
User Name: ianbetteridge
Password: ••••••••••
Outgoing Mail Server (SMTP): smtp.me.com:ianbetteridge
☑ Use only this server

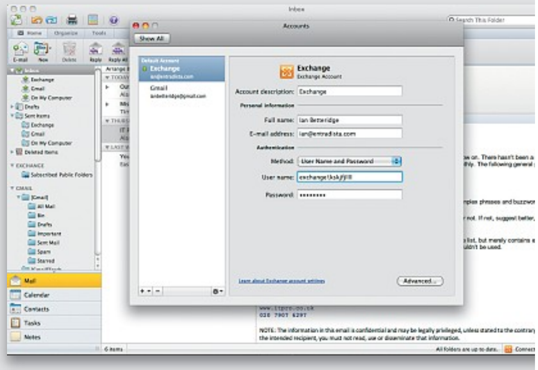
Apple Mail proves capable of handling multiple accounts with ease, from POP to Exchange.

>> EXCHANGE SUPPORT / What it means

Two of the products on test, *Mail* and *Outlook*, offer support for Microsoft Exchange servers. Exchange is a widely used piece of server software in the business world which, as well as handling email, also includes support for shared contacts, calendars, and folders for files.

When Apple launched MobileMe in 2008, Steve Jobs described it as "Exchange for the rest of us", and there are similarities between the products. Both go beyond email to also store contacts and calendars online, enabling all your devices to keep in sync with the same information at all times. Both systems also support 'push' email to an iPhone. If your business utilises Exchange, then you should choose either *Mail* or *Outlook*. Of the two, *Outlook* offers more comprehensive support for Exchange servers, including task and note syncing in addition to email, calendar and contacts.

Both, though, enable you to use one of Exchange's most useful features: the ability to schedule meetings with other users on the same server and check when they are free to attend the meeting.


Inbox
Accounts
Show All
Default Account
Exchange
Gmail
Exchange Account
Personal information
Authentication
Learn about Exchange account settings
Advanced…
Mail
Calendar
Contacts
Tasks
Notes
6 items
All folders are up to date.

Account description: Exchange
Full name: Ian Betteridge
E-mail address: ian@entradista.com
Method: User Name and Password
Password: ••••••••

Exchange lets you easily schedule meetings with other server users.

>> TEST THREE

Filtering

How well does each package filter incoming email?

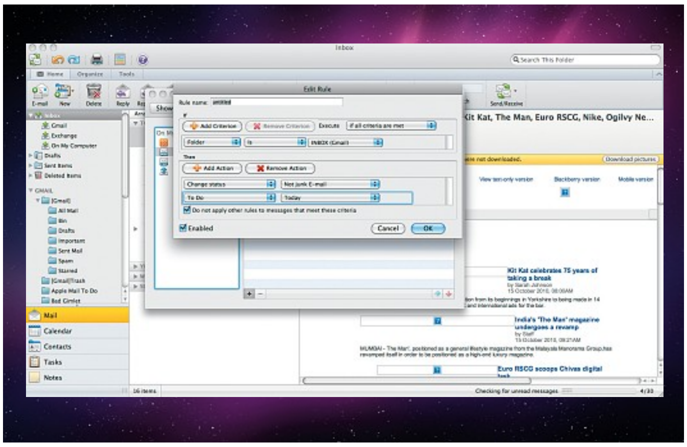
All of the clients include the ability to filter messages as they arrive. Often, this will be used to file incoming mail from a mailing list into a folder, to avoid inbox clutter, but filters can do a lot more if given a chance.

PowerMail includes some extra filtering options that will please power users, such as the ability to automatically save attachments to a specific folder – handy if you receive files from a client and want to ensure they are always saved in a particular place.

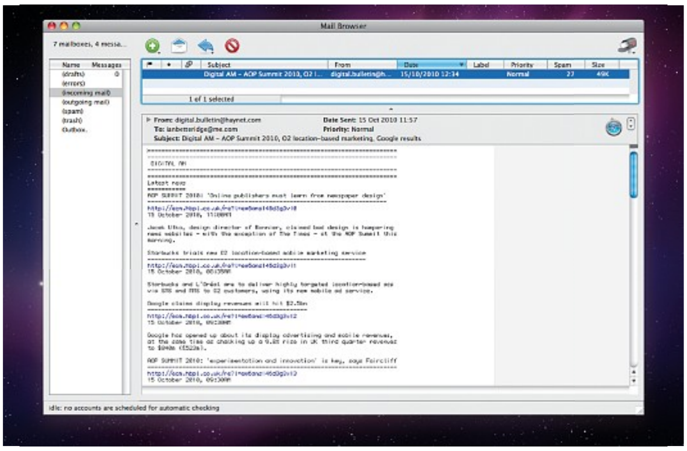
Outlook enables you to set To Do actions using a filter. This means, for example, that you can add a rule which creates a To Do item for any email from your boss. *Mail* – the only other client with support for To Dos – doesn't have an equivalent feature. However, it does have 'smart mailboxes', which let you set up folders with a set of filtering criteria. Instead of moving mail into a folder, though, a smart mailbox just displays matching email, no matter where it's located, which is useful when searching.

>> TEST RESULTS

Mail	★★★★☆
Outlook	★★★★☆
GyazMail	★★★☆☆
PowerMail	★★★★☆
Mailsmith	★★★☆☆
Thunderbird	★★★☆☆



Outlook's filtering options include the ability to create To Do notes directly from emails.



Digital AM – AOP Summit 2010, O2 l... digital.bulletin@h... 15/10/2010 12:34 Normal 27 49K

1 of 1 selected

From: digital.bulletin@haynet.com
To: ianbetteridge@me.com
Subject: Digital AM – AOP Summit 2010, O2 location-based marketing, Google results
Date Sent: 15 Oct 2010 11:57
Priority: Normal

Mailsmith doesn't handle HTML directly, but you can view such emails in Safari if needed.

>> TEST FOUR

HTML handling

Email can come in HTML form, but do our clients like it?

Despite the complaints of the purists who believe that all email should be standard text, HTML email is a fact of life. Not only do companies send out formatted newsletters using HTML, but some clients even enable users to create HTML emails to send to others.

Mailsmith takes the purist's approach, and doesn't display HTML in-line at all. Instead, if you receive an HTML email, it converts it to text but gives you the option to send the HTML to a web browser for display.

All of the other applications attempt to display the HTML, with varying degrees of success. *PowerMail* enables you to turn off HTML email by default, and – like *Mail* – also offers to automatically download images (although both applications note that this can be a security risk). *PowerMail* also includes a handy 'Quick Look' feature, so if an email has an attachment, you can see its contents without having to leave the application or open the file.

>> TEST RESULTS

Mail	★★★★☆
Outlook	★★★★☆
GyazMail	★★★☆☆
PowerMail	★★★★☆
Mailsmith	★★☆☆☆
Thunderbird	★★★★☆

>> THE WINNER / Apple Mail

Of the six clients on test, three fell by the wayside fairly quickly. *Mailsmith's* lack of IMAP support outweighs its plus points. *GyazMail*, while having a simple interface, has little to recommend it, and *PowerMail* – despite its excellent filtering – feels like a product in need of a major upgrade.

This leaves us with *Mail*, *Outlook* and *Thunderbird*. All three are easy to use and have powerful filtering and account support. However, *Thunderbird* lacks direct support for Exchange servers, while *Outlook* is the only one that costs money.

That leaves us with one winner: Apple's *Mail*. It's free, works with virtually every kind of server going, is integrated well into OS X, and has plenty of options for handling accounts, spam, and filters.

>> FINAL RESULTS

Mail	★★★★☆
Outlook	★★★★☆
GyazMail	★★★☆☆
PowerMail	★★★☆☆
Mailsmith	★★☆☆☆
Thunderbird	★★★★☆

Mac FORMAT
Winner!
SNS iNews- Highlights
MacBook Pro

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"The latest Mac mini offers an SD reader and HDMI, but comes with fewer USB ports"

» THE MAC MINI SPECS IN FULL P116

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPADS
- iPODS
- iPHONES

Laurence Cable
Staff Writer

The VAT rise was announced so long ago that you may well have forgotten it's slowly creeping up. On 4 January 2011, the rate will jump from 17.5% to 20%, driving up the cost of buying any Apple gear.

At the cheaper end of the range, this will push the price of an iPod shuffle from £39 to £39.82. But it's when you get to the higher-priced kit that your bank account will start to feel the difference. A top-of-the-range iPad jumps from £699 to £713, a 27-inch Core i3 iMac from £1,399 to £1,428, and the 12-core Mac Pro leaps up by £85.

So whether you're toying with the idea of buying your first Mac, or upgrading your existing machine, now's the time to do it! Remember, the VAT rise will apply to all peripherals too, so have a look at our selection of accessories to go with your new Mac. And once you've got it all set up, why not email us about appearing in our regular Me & My Mac (page 16)?

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac Pro is highly configurable. Order online for over a billion possible configurations. You can opt for up to 12 processing cores, and up to four solid state drives!

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The 21.5-inch iMac starts at £999. A top-of-the-range standard iMac costs £1,649.

Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

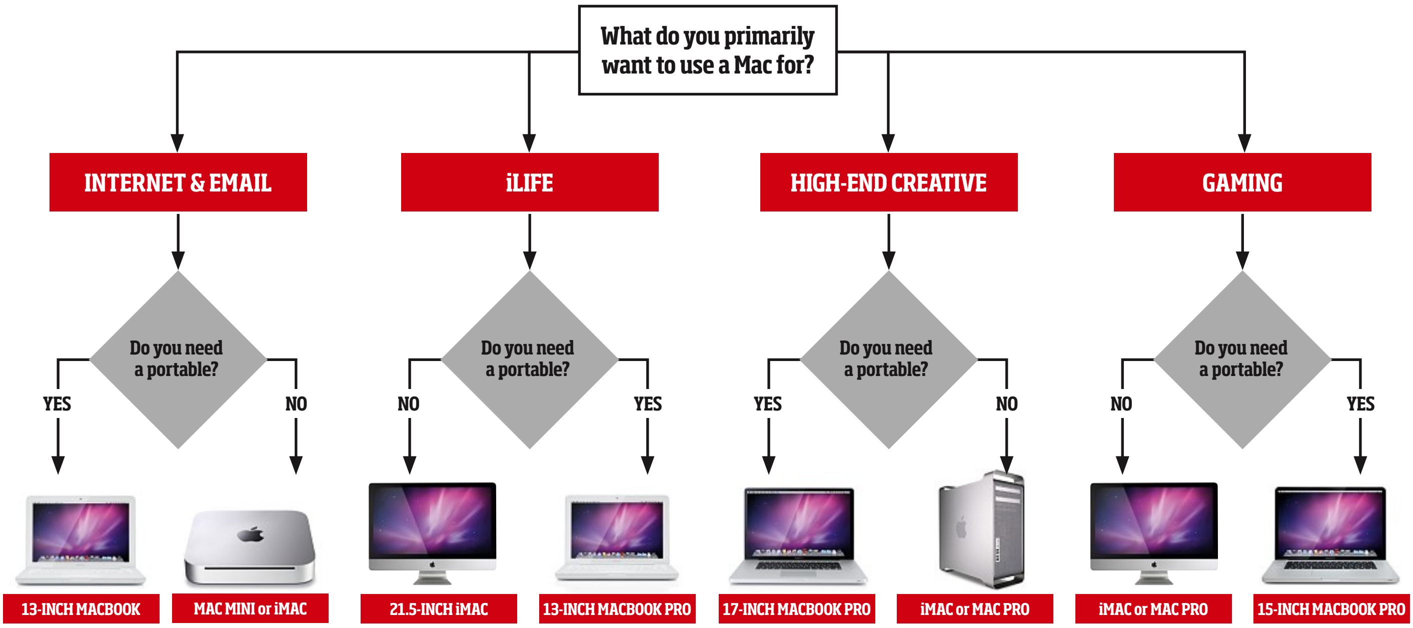
There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **www.apple.com/uk/education/store**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having: for example, a dual-core 27-inch iMac lists for £1,315, compared to the regular price of £1,399. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

> *"The best time to shop for a refurbished, clearance or second-user Mac is just after Apple brings out new models"*

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

The MacBook is ideal for entry-level users, but the more demanding should go for a Pro.

Bargain basement

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year and extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

> *"Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities"*

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at http://store.apple.com/uk – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £999. If you want a higher spec, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card – but at £248 extra, you'd really have to want that graphics card. But hang on: you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the specs to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive. Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The late-2010 MacBook Air refresh gave us four off-the-shelf models, all boasting solid state memory and a new form factor. It now offers 11-inch as well as 13-inch screens.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options…

21.5-inch 3.06GHz
£999
- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 discrete graphics with 256MB GDDR3 SDRAM • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 3.2GHz
£1,249
- 3.06GHz Intel Core i3
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

Updated July 2010

27-inch 3.2GHz
£1,399
- 3.2GHz Intel Core i3
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (expndable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5670 graphics, 512MB GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.8GHz (Quad Core) £1,649
- 2.8GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 5750 graphics, 1GB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

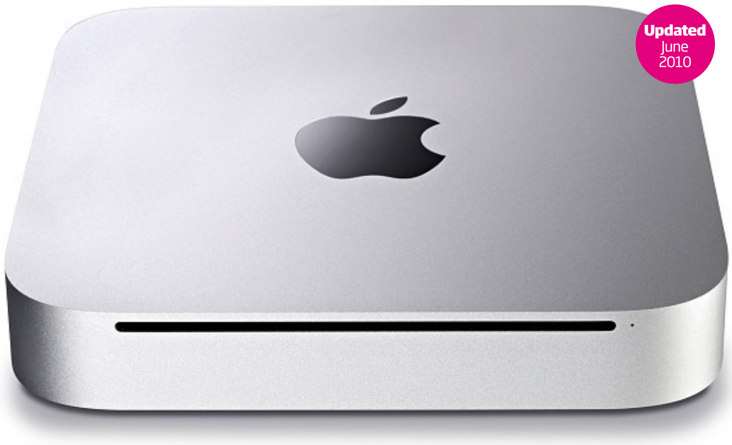
Mac mini

Updated June 2010

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest Mac mini offers an SD reader and HDMI, but it does come with one fewer USB 2.0 port than its predecessor.

2.4GHz 320GB
£649
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 4x USB 2.0 • SD card slot
- Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- HDMI to DVI adapter



8-Core
£2,799

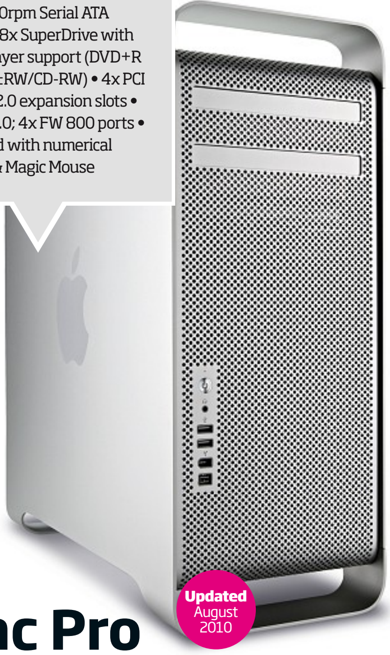
• Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

Quad-Core
£1,999

• 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core
£3,999

• Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse



Mac Pro

Updated August 2010

13-inch 2.4GHz
£999

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
• 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
• 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
• 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
• SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
• Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.66GHz
£1,249

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
• 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
• 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
• 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
• SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
• Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.4GHz
£1,499

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
• 2.4GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz
£1,649

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
• 2.53GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

11-inch models
£849/£999

• 1.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 11.6-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1366x768 pixels • 64GB or 128GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Five-hour battery life, or 30 days on stand-by • Built-in FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort

13-inch models
£1,099/£1349

• 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1440x900 pixels • 128GB or 256GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Seven-hour battery life, or 30 days on stand-by
• Built-in FaceTime camera
• 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort • SD reader

13-inch white 2.4GHz
£849

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache
• 2GB RAM (2x DDR3SDRAM)
• 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm
• 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
• AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera
• Bluetooth 2.0

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,799

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
• 2.66GHz Intel Core i7, 4MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

17-inch 2.53GHz
£1,899

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
• 2.53GHz Intel Core i5 3MB shared L3 cache
• 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
• 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
• SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
• Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated October 2010

MacBook Air

Updated May 2010

MacBook

Updated April 2010

MacBook Pro

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The iPad's processor is, according to Apple, a '1GHz A4 custom-designed, high-performance, low-power system-on-a-chip'. Its LED-backlit IPS display gives it an incredible 178-degree viewing angle.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web-browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

The iPad can be used in landscape or portrait mode, with the screen rotating automatically.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer. It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid-state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high-resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad comes in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, and is available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. The 3G version costs £100 more initially and comes with data plans from either O2, Orange or Vodafone. Prices start at £429 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £699 for the top-of-the-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad.

> *"The iPad sits between an iPhone and a Mac. If you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is ideal"*

The iPhone 4 offers a new form factor and some exciting new features, such as a front-facing camera for video chat.

iPad

Launched
May
2010

Seven Wonders of the World
Life in the Serengeti
Wildcats Soccer Team
Statistics 2010

iPad 16GB

£429 (Wi-Fi)
£529 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 680g (Wi-Fi) •730g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 32GB

£499 (Wi-Fi)
£599 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 680g (Wi-Fi) •730g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 64GB

£599 (Wi-Fi)
£699 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

• 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen •1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone • 242.8x189.7x13.4mm • 680g (Wi-Fi) •730g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPhone

Updated
June
2010

iPhone 3GS 8GB

£419 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black • 3.5-inch widescreen • 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime) • 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB

£499 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB

£599 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

>> APPS EVERYWHERE

The iPad, iPhone and the iPod touch featured over the page can all install and run apps from Apple's App Store. Many of these apps (such as the Facebook app, or *Twitteriffic*) are free, but even the paid-for apps are inexpensive compared to the prices of software for the Mac. However, there's one obvious problem: the iPad has a 9.7-inch screen, while the iPhone has a 3.5-inch screen. Obviously, apps designed to run on the iPhone are going to look tiny on the iPad's larger display.

To make them fit, Apple has introduced something called 'pixel doubling'. Every pixel in the app is doubled, so the app becomes twice the size it was before, thus filling the screen (well, pretty much). You also have the option of running the app at its native resolution on the iPad if you prefer, although this can look strange as the app then sits in a sea of blackness. The pixel-doubling approach can make apps look a little bit fuzzy, especially games, but it appears to be a good enough solution for most apps.

Apple is, of course, encouraging developers to design apps specifically for the iPad's larger screen, so if you're an iPad owner, look out for iPad-only versions of your favourite apps from the App Store. Not only do they look better than their iPhone originals, but the larger screen size means developers can fit extra controls and features into the interface. That means more fun to be had in games, for example.

Some apps are only be available for the iPad. Apple is starting the ball rolling here by releasing its *iWork* suite (consisting of *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote*) for the iPad only. Conversely, apps that utilise the camera on the iPhone obviously won't work on the iPad. Look out for apps with a '+' symbol next to their price on the App store. This means the apps will work perfectly on both iPad and iPhone.

iPad games often have extra control options built in.

LAP 1/3
TIME 0:19.49
BEST
CORNER MASTERED
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NISSAN

Choosing an iPod

Which model is best for you?

The September 2010 iPod refresh saw every model except the classic updated. The shuffle returned to its old form factor, regaining its on-body controls, but retaining VoiceOver technology that lets the iPod read the title and artist information. For reasons unspecified, the 4GB model has disappeared, leaving only a 2GB iPod shuffle.

The iPod nano underwent the most radical overhaul. The latest model features a square design with touchscreen controls, but has lost its video camera. It's a lot smaller and lighter, though, so you might consider this a fair trade.

Unsurprisingly, the iPod touch benefits from technologies introduced with the iPhone 4, such as a Retina Display and FaceTime. It also has a rear-facing camera that can record 720p HD. And don't forget the iPod classic, which still offers the best price per GB. ●

iPod shuffle

iPod shuffle 2GB

£39

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in five colours; silver, blue, green, yellow, pink • No screen, but the control pad returns
- VoiceOver technology lets your iPod talk to you
- 3.5-mm stereo headphone jack is used for both audio out and USB charging
- Battery lasts up to 15 hours
- 29x31.6x8.7mm • 12.5g

Updated September 2010

iPod nano

Updated September 2010

9:41 AM
Playlists
Now Playing
Artists
Genius M

iPod nano 8GB

£129

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod nano 16GB

£159

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod classic

Now Playing
2:20
MENU
iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

Updated September 2009

iPod classic 160GB

£193

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod touch

Updated September 2010

iPod touch 8GB

£189

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 32GB

£249

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 64GB

£329

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

Freeway 5.5
Gallery
freeway
Freeway Newsletter

Experience the new
Freeway 5.5
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freeway pro
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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Magic Trackpad

★★★★☆

Price: £59 **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/ 713555
Key specs: 13.13x13.01x1.83cm; Bluetooth connectivity; powered by 2x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.6.4

- ➕ Brings the MacBook's famous gestures to Apple's desktop range
- ➖ Snow Leopard only

"Well conceived and beautifully executed, it's well worth a try if you use a Mac Pro, iMac or Mac mini at home or work."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures

- ➕ Gesture support, good software bundle
- ➖ Expensive

Macally mGlide ★★★★☆

Price: £28 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619206
Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor

- ➕ Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
- ➖ It's a little small

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★

Price: £187 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

- ➕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
- ➖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MG6150 ★★★★★

Price: £200 **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719361
Key specs: Six-tank inkjet; touch-sensitive controls

- ➕ Comprehensive connectivity; stellar print quality
- ➖ Could be faster

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★

Price: £218 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Key specs: Mono laser printer

- ➕ Incredible value to run and great print quality
- ➕ Elegant, well-realised text and decent images
- ➕ Helpful screen to guide you through problems

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £649 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x 1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

- ➕ Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
- ➖ Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor

- ➕ Excellent value for money
- ➖ No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★☆

Price: £129 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/500421
Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res

- ➕ A solid performer; good looking
- ➖ Terrible built-in audio

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Scosche IDR655m

★★★★½

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.scosche.com
Full review: MF issue 223 group test
Key specs: Frequency response 15Hz-20KHz; weight 11g; cable length 139cm; six pairs of tips and a carry pouch

- ➕ Excellent audio quality; inline controls, with volume adjustment
- ➖ Felt like they should fit a little deeper in the ear

"Excellently placed mic and controls, a beautifully lively sound and a comprehensive feature set."

Audio Chi W Series ★★★★★

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 222
Full review: www.techradar.com/690331
Key specs: 3.5mm jack; adjustable headset

- ➕ Rich, deep and detailed sound; comfortable
- ➖ Some might prefer earbuds

Creative ZiiSound D5 ★★★★½

Price: £280 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702310
Key specs: Bluetooth speaker set for Mac and iPod

- ➕ Impressive sound; solid Bluetooth connection
- ➖ Not great at shaping the sound

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D

★★★★☆

Price: £570 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; card formats: SD, SDHC; file formats: JPEG, RAW

⊕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Leica V-LUX 20 ★★★★☆

Price: £495 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702331
Key specs: 12.1MP; Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR lens
⊕ Powerful 12x zoom option; GPS tagging
⊖ Expensive for a compact

Samsung ST1000 ★★★★½

Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Full review: www.techradar.com/644939
Key specs: OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Good pics and movies; great GPS
⊖ Too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1,000 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £164 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270

★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/621127
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
⊖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £97 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Janus Wi-Fi Adapter ★★★★☆

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709609
Key specs: Range of up to 1000 metres
⊕ Powerful and solid wireless networking
⊖ Instructions for Mac users not great

STORAGE

Mobile Drive CLS

★★★★½

Price: £varies **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.freecom.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/713563
Key specs: Dock takes up to three portable drives; drives available in capacities of 250, 320, 500 and 640GB; USB 2.0.

⊕ Convenient; stylish design; flexible; reasonable performance
⊖ Standard drives offer a better price-per-GB ratio

"A neat, inexpensive hard disk docking station that makes us go all nostalgic. Nice rubber finish too."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB ★★★★½

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678951
Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity
⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

Apple Time Capsule 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £388 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/629850
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ Simultaneous dual band; high capacity
⊖ No built-in modem

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HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 11 ★★★★★

Price: £219 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683719
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
⊕ Easy to use; built-in charts; Quick Find
⊖ No image import from Bento

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS5

★★★★★

Price: £699 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.adobe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694660
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher; Multi-Core Intel processor; 2.6GB hard drive space; 1GB RAM

⊕ Column spanning in text frames; the DTP app of choice for professionals
⊖ Expensive and not for beginners

"Significant new layout and interactive features make this version a compelling upgrade."

BeLight Swift Publisher ★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 222
Full review: MF Issue 222 group test
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later
⊕ Simple, intuitive and effective layout tools
⊖ Takes a little time to learn how to use it

Photoshop Elements 9 ★★★★½

Price: £77 (£117 bundled) **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719934
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11+, Intel Mac, 512MB
⊕ New Guided Edit mode; Layer masks; Organizer
⊖ Some features not so effective

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3

★★★★★

Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

⊕ Updated interface; simpler intstallation; great new features
⊖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for

"A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."

Remo Recover Pro Edition ★★★★½

Price: £135 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683721
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM
⊕ Straightforward interface; media recovery
⊖ Comparatively expensive

Panic Transmit 4 ★★★★★

Price: £24 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Full review: www.techradar.com/694626
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later
⊕ Fast transfer speeds; improved options
⊖ No significant problems at all

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £71 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space

⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS

"The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £408 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★½

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709610
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Great new tools, including masking function
⊖ It's not the Mac's best-looking app

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Printed in the UK by
Polestar Group on behalf of Future
Distributed in the UK by
Seymour Distribution Ltd
2 East Poultry Avenue
London, EC1A 9PT
Tel: 0207 429 4000

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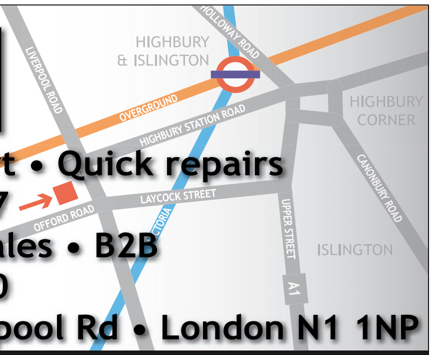

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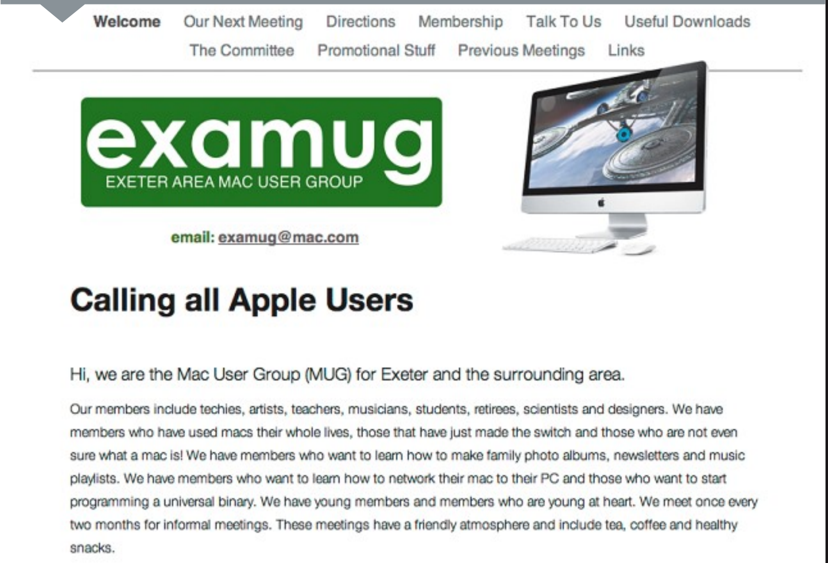

email: examug@mac.com

Calling all Apple Users

Hi, we are the Mac User Group (MUG) for Exeter and the surrounding area.

Our members include techies, artists, teachers, musicians, students, retirees, scientists and designers. We have members who have used macs their whole lives, those that have just made the switch and those who are not even sure what a mac is! We have members who want to learn how to make family photo albums, newsletters and music playlists. We have members who want to learn how to network their mac to their PC and those who want to start programming a universal binary. We have young members and members who are young at heart. We meet once every two months for informal meetings. These meetings have a friendly atmosphere and include tea, coffee and healthy snacks.

The Exeter Area Mac User Group (or Examug for short) is a lively and growing Mac User Group that meets every couple of months for informal meetings, where you're free to discuss everything Mac related. The yearly fee is £20, or you can pay £4 per meeting (your first meeting is free). Meetings take place at the ISCA College in Exeter, and there are also social events that take place at the White Heart Hotel, also in Exeter. To find out more and see what was discussed at previous meetings, please visit **www.examug.org.uk**.

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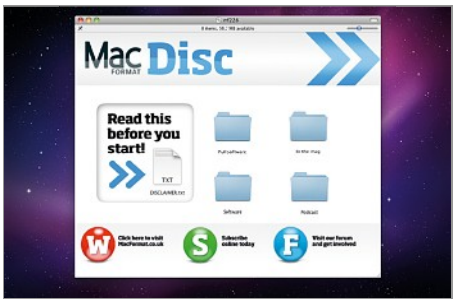
Once you've captured what you want, you can edit your images directly from *Voila*, using a range of tools and effects. These include arrows, text, skewing the shot and shining a light on a certain part. You can then share your files by email, FTP or on Flickr.

Upgrade offers

We've secured a 20% discount for *MacFormat* readers to upgrade to *Voila 3.0*. Just enter the promotional code on the disc to activate this offer.

>>HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc


Mac FORMAT Disc
Read this before you start!
TXT
DISCLAIMER.txt
Full software
In the mag
Software
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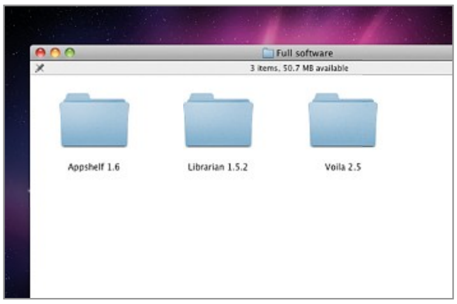
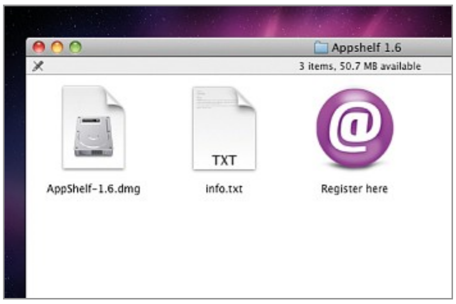
01 Loading the disc

Once you've inserted the disc in your Mac's optical drive and clicked on the disc icon to display its contents, you'll be greeted with this folder. Please make sure you read the disclaimer text file before you progress.


Full software
3 items, 50.7 MB available
Appshelf 1.6
Librarian 1.5.2
Voila 2.5

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.


Appshelf 1.6
3 items, 50.7 MB available
AppShelf-1.6.dmg
TXT
info.txt
Register here

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your Desktop to open. ●

MacFormat Disc

Three full programs plus widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

>> HAVING PROBLEMS?

If you have any problems with the cover disc or any other questions relating to it, you can get further help by emailing **support@futurenet.co.uk** or alternatively calling our support team on **01225 822743**.

FULL SOFTWARE

AppShelf 1.6
Librarian Pro 1.5.2
Voila 2.5

IN THE MAG

Group test
GyazMail 1.5.10
Mailsmith 2.2.5
PowerMail 6.0.5
Thunderbird 3.1.4

News feature
Xbench 1.3

Reviews
Courier 1.0
eWallet 7.1
Get Backup 2.4.2

Safari extensions
A Cleaner YouTube
BetterSource 1.0
Exposer 1.1
Instapaper Beyond 1.4
Invisible Status Bar 1.20
Mini Google Maps 1.0.0
MouseGestures 1.11
Reload Button
Twitter for Safari 1.02

MacFormat podcast

MacFormat
ISSUE 228 / December 2010

MISSING YOUR DISC?

If your disc is missing, email **support@futurenet.com** or phone 01225 822743

Shareware
DockView 1.49
iPhone Explorer 2.006

Tutorials
Airfoil 3.5.4
Deeper 1.2.4
OnyX 2.1.8
TinkerTool 4.3

Recommended
AppShelf 2.1.2
Librarian Pro 2.0.9
Voila 3.0.1

Top freeware
Economix 3.2.1
Editra 0.5.86
Email Backup 2.5
Equals 1.1
JaBack9 9.03
LibreOffice 3.3.0
Mactracker 5.2.3
Mixxx 1.8.0
Skim 1.3.9
ToyViewer 5.10

Widgets
Boredom Button 1.0
iTunes Timer 1.4
Sushi Recipes 0.1
Timetable 1.1.1

>> FINDING A SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but - as with any new software - we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We regret that are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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